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Nearly 100 firms linked to Thai PM Thaksin face boycott

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Gen. Danilo Lim to NBI: There was no coup plot, no alliance with Reds

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Sandigan revokes sequestration of 4 Lucio Tan firms

■ NEWS / A2

Journalists file petition to stop gov't from censoring media

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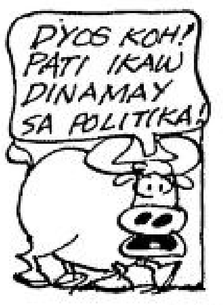
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Thursday, March 9, 2006 ★★ 4 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 91 P18 website: www.inq7.net

GMA invocation of God angers religious leaders


DYOS KOH! PATI IKAW DINAMAY SA POLITIKA!

By Christian V. Esguerra and Gil C. Cabacungan

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo's invocation of God to justify her stay in office amid questions of legitimacy has unsettled, if not angered, some reli-

GMA/ A6

Samuel Lee released after posting P360,000 bail

By Luige A. del Puerto and Armand N. Nocum

SAMUEL LEE, A SUSPECTED SMUGGLER WITH purported ties to First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, was released by the police yesterday after posting bail.

"Lee posted P360,000 in cash bond. (He was) ordered released (by a Manila Regional Trial Court). We released him at around 6 p.m.," Supt.

SAMUEL LEE/ A8

17 liable for stampede

One woman in women's mind on Women's Day

By Tarra V. Quismundo

FOR THE THOUSANDS WHO marched in Makati City yesterday, International Women's Day was all about one woman: President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Housewives, teachers, students, professionals, children and members of the urban poor renewed their call for the ouster of Ms Arroyo in the first major protest action since she lifted her declaration of a state of national emergency on Friday.

"We're certainly not celebrating her. We're repudiating her on International Women's Day. That's a slap on her. You cannot celebrate women's rights and welfare and the struggle to liberate women without denouncing this particular woman," said Carol Araullo, chair of the militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan.

"She shows the worst qualities of masochists. She is boastful, she tramples upon the rights of others ... and because the majority of Filipinos are women, she is abusing the rights of women," Araullo said.

Corazon "Dinky" Soliman, Ms Arroyo's resigned social welfare secretary, said it was unfortunate that the incumbent happened to be a woman:

"It is one of the ironies. She is not honest to the principles of women in the Philippines and the women's movement in general, [which are] based on truth, justice and peace ... All of that she was not able to fulfill."

Among 10 of the key officials who resigned in July last year, the height of the controversy that implicated Ms Arroyo in election fraud, Soliman remembered celebrating International Women's Day with the President in Malacañang

ONE WOMAN / A6

LYN RILLON

TAKING IT IN STRIDE: Even as the rallies of the Int'l Women's Day heat up with clamor for her ouster, a cool President Arroyo walks back to her Palace office after the live broadcast of her regular roundtable discussion.

Criminal raps poised vs Revillame, TV execs

By Margaux C. Ortiz

CRIMINAL CHARGES WERE RECOMMENDED yesterday by the National Bureau of Investigation against those it deemed responsible for the Feb. 4 stampede at the PhilSports Arena (formerly Ultra) in Pasig City that killed 71 people and injured 957 others.

Facing charges of "reckless imprudence resulting in multiple homicide and multiple injuries" in the Department of Justice are 12 officers and employees of the ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp., including Charo Santos-Concio, executive vice president; Maria Socorro Vidanes, senior vice president of the television production department; Cipriano "Rene" Luspo, assistant vice president and head of security; and Wilfredo "Willie" Revillame, host of the daily game show "Wowowee."

Five other persons outside the network are also facing similar charges.

Each count of the offense is punishable by up to six years in prison.

The NBI recommended the filing of administrative charges against Pasig Mayor Vicente Eusebio in the Department of Interior and Local Government, for issuing a permit to the network without asking for a comprehensive security plan.

NBI officer in charge Nestor Mantaring said the investigators cleared the Pasig police and the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority of liability. He said ABS-CBN personnel had not coordinated with the government agencies in the planning of the event.

In a statement, ABS-CBN expressed concern over what it said was the "selective manner" with which the NBI conducted the investigation, "particularly in not charging members of the [Philippine National Police]" and "overlooking and disregarding their negligence and culpabilities by

17 LIABLE/ A6

Singapore rewards 2 Filipinas with cash

By Volt Contreras

OVER A DECADE AGO, SINGApore drew outrage among Filipinos over the execution of domestic helper Flor Contemplacion, her story still a haunting reminder of the stress and uncertainties faced by the Filipina "DH" abroad.

But last month, the tiny but affluent city-state honored two Filipino maids, chosen from among tens of thousands of foreign workers employed there.

Elizabeth Yanos Quiatchon, 38, was named Singapore's "Foreign Domestic Worker of the Year," the Department of Foreign Affairs reported yesterday. The citation came with a S$2,500 (P82,500) cash prize.

Another Filipino, Marina Bayabay Garcia, placed third and the award carried a S$1,200 (P39,600) purse.

Quiatchon has been working

SINGAPORE/ A8

Antiriot cops mar women's rally, arrest lawmaker

By DJ Yap

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY WAS marked yesterday by antiriot police dispersing an assembly of women activists and arresting two of their leaders, including Akbayan Rep. Risa Hontiveros-Baraquel.

"This arrest is veritable proof that despite the lifting of Presidential Proclamation No. 1017, the President is bent on violating civil liberties to silence those who simply wish to have the truth exposed," Baraquel later said at Camp Karingal, where she was taken.

She was released yesterday afternoon after a group of lawyers and her fellow lawmakers, including Partido ng Manggagawa Rep. Renato Magtubo and Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman, invoked her immunity from suit as a member of Congress.

But ground commander Senior Supt. Elmo San Diego said Baraquel had only been "invited for questioning."

Also taken into police custody was Alliance of Progressive Labor (APL) secretary general Joshua Mata, who was plucked from the crowd during the dispersal.

Mata said the rough dispersal was proof that the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo was "patently insecure" because it had to resort to coercive ways to stifle dissent.

According to Akbayan information officer Percy Cendaña, Mata was charged with violating Batas Pambansa No. 880, or the illegal assembly law, before an assistant city prosecutor.

Baraquel's supporters said she would file charges of physical assault, grave misconduct and violation of parliamen-

ANTIRIOT/ A6

BODILY CARRIED into a police vehicle, Akbayan Rep. Risa Hontiveros-Baraquel tries to break free from the cops who claim to be "inviting" her "for questioning."

'Superman's' widow dies of lung cancer; 44

WHITE PLAINS, NEW YORK—A YEAR and a half after her husband died, the widow of Christopher Reeve of the Superman" movies, succumbed to lung cancer. She was 44.

Dana Reeve, the singer-actress married the strapping star and then devoted herself to his care and his cause after he was paralyzed.

Although Dana Reeve had announced her cancer diagnosis in August last year—to an outpouring of sympathy and support from admirers

SUPERMAN'S/ A8

AFP

NOW AND FOREVER: Dana Reeve had sung the song in January. They are now together again never more to part.

LPG shows poverty now wears a woman's face

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau
and Kate Pedroso
PDI Research

POVERTY WEARS A WOMAN'S FACE.

Many households in Metro Manila cannot afford liquefied petroleum gas, according to a survey conducted by the Center for Women's Studies (CWS).

Myrna, a government employee from Laguna, now uses wood instead of LPG if she has to boil meat—a task that takes more time and, therefore, consumes more fuel. That practice has allowed her to extend her LPG consumption to two months from one and a half months.

Fe, a manicurist from Laguna, finds it cheaper to buy her family's food from a nearby store. If she has to, she uses her LPG only for frying. The current LPG tank she uses was bought last December.

Mary Jane Guan, CWS executive director, said on Tuesday that the survey put a "woman's face" to the state of poverty in the country.

Speaking at a forum at the University of the Philippines Baguio, Guan said 39 percent of 200 mothers that the CWS randomly surveyed in January said they had abandoned LPG in favor of meals

LPG/ A7

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms becoming widespread rains over Mindanao which may trigger flashfloods and landslides. The rest of Luzon and Visayas will be cloudy with rainshowers.

COMPILED BY KATE PEDROSO, PDI RESEARCH/03/08/06 SOURCE PAGASA

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THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 2006

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Rains

Journalists slam censorship

By Alcuin Papa

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO'S DECLARATION of a state of national emergency has placed press freedoms under siege again 20 years after the fall of the dictator Ferdinand Marcos, journalists said yesterday.

In a petition before the Court of Appeals, nine journalist groups and organizations and about three dozen individual news people asked the court to stop the government from imposing censorship and prior restraint on the press.

"The threat of official intervention – in the form of administrative sanction or criminal prosecution – is just as damaging to a free press as the fact of it," the petition said.

Although the President lifted the emergency last Friday, government's moves against the media could have a lasting chilling effect, the journalists said.

Ms Arroyo said she imposed the week-long emergency, which ended last Friday, to foil a coup plot by a cabal of leftists and rightists.

Magnified in media

In her decree, Proclamation 1017, the President said the claims of the coup plotters "have been recklessly magnified by certain segments of the national media."

It gave the government powers to ban rallies, arrest people without warrants and crack down on inflammatory media.

Police subsequently raided the Daily Tribune, a newspaper critical of Ms Arroyo, and troops were deployed around the two largest TV networks.

The National Telecommunications Commission also reminded radio and TV stations of prohibitions on the broadcast of "rebellious, terrorist propaganda" and statements that "propose or incite treason, rebellion or sedition."

In a phone interview, Maria Ressa, head of the news division of ABS-CBN, one of the court petitioners, said the suit was their way of "holding officials accountable for what they say."

The petition asked the CA to prohibit Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, Philippine National Police chief Gen. Arturo Lomibao and National Telecommunications Commission Chair Ronald Solis from "stopping, prohibiting or censoring the publication or airing of speech..."

It said that even with the lifting of Proclamation 1017, the three officials continue to "review and monitor...[and] threaten the press..."

Interviewed last Tuesday for the first time since lifting the state of emergency, Ms Arroyo reminded journalists that "freedom comes with responsibility."

"I do not always seek 'praise releases,' I look for a journalist ... who does not just praise, in fact often criticizes, but also knows the limits," she told GMA radio anchor Mike Enriquez.

Vice President Noli de Castro yesterday said that only "lazy journalists" are unable to achieve a balanced reportage.

A former broadcast journalist, De Castro said he agreed with the President that the media should be "fair" in their reporting.

Asked if he thought the media have been fair, De Castro said: "There are those who are not fair. But there are also those who are fair, especially the seasoned broadcasters." *With AFP and Nikko Dizon*

WHAT COUP PLOT? Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim talks to reporters at the National Bureau of Investigation to deny allegations of a conspiracy of renegade soldiers and communist rebels to oust President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

REM ZAMORA

No coups, says sacked general

By Margaux Ortiz

ARMY BRIG. GEN. DANILO LIM, WHO WAS dismissed from his post and detained for allegedly plotting against President Macapagal-Arroyo, denied that he had conspired with communist rebels to oust the President.

"There was no coup. It is not true I am involved in an alliance with the Left. I will never allow myself to be in that position," said Lim, the former First Scout Ranger Regiment commander, in his first public appearance since his arrest on Feb. 24.

Lim, who appeared at the National Bureau of Investigation yesterday to testify in the inquiry into the Time magazine article implicating him, later faced reporters and answered questions on the various issues he is facing.

Lim, who arrived at the NBI under heavy guard, denied any knowledge of alleged efforts by the renegade Magdalo group of officers to recruit soldiers and ally with leftist groups to oust the President.

"It would be unthinkable for me, a general of the AFP and commander of the Scout Ranger regiment to enter into such arrangement. How can I face my men if I deal with the Left?" he said.

Lim said Armed Forces Chief Gen. Generoso Senga "could testify that I did not convince him to join any coup plot on Feb. 23."

Senga put Lim under his custody after uncovering an alleged plan by the dismissed Scout Ranger commander to lead his troops to an opposition rally that would call for the President's resignation.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita yesterday stood pat on its claim that a cabal of renegade soldiers, including Lim, were in a conspiracy with leftist groups to overthrow Ms Arroyo.

Ermita said the evidence would be made public when Lim and the other alleged conspirators are charged in a court-martial.

Lim said he never gave any orders for his troops to move to Metro Manila from Bulacan.

"I should have had my Scout Rangers with me if I was indeed involved in a coup plot," he said.

Lim admitted that his regiment received a P4 million donation from the Saludo sa Kawal Pilipino Foundation set up by deposed President Estrada, now on trial for corruption.

But he said it was received by the regiment's sergeant-major, not himself, in behalf of a cooperative which Lim established three years ago to lend money to soldiers' families.

"I could not care less about the source of the money as long as it would be used for the soldiers and their families," Lim said.

"But it was definitely not used for any coup attempt," he added.

Lim also denied heading a military breakaway group called Para Sa Bayan, which he said was the Reform the Armed Forces Movement's motto in the late 1980s.

"My name is often being used by people whom I do not know from Adam," he said with some irritation.

He recalled having been involved as a young Army captain in the 1989 coup attempt against President Aquino, and has been dissuading restive young officers to follow the same path.

Reynaldo Esmeralda, the head of the NBI Special Task Force, said Lim was asked to appear in the agency's probe into a Time magazine article implicating him and Jose "Peping" Cojuangco and Pastor "Boy" Saycon in the foiled coup.

In a letter to the NBI, Lim said he "did not conspire with anyone against the President and neither did I talk to Mr. Saycon as reported" in the Time article.

But NBI officer in charge Nestor Mantaring said that while Lim denied having knowledge of the alleged conversation with Saycon, the general did not dismiss the possibility of talking to Saycon on Feb. 23.

The Philippine Army leadership apparently sees nothing wrong in the First Scout Ranger Regiment's soliciting P4 million from ousted President Estrada.

Maj. Bartolome Bacarro, an Army spokesman, said what mattered was that the solicitation was made in the name of the Scout Rangers' cooperative and that the money appeared to be intact. *With Gil C. Cabacungan, Dona Pazzibugan and AFP*

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PSALM, through its 2006 Corporate Operating Budget intends to apply the sum of Fourteen Million Three Hundred Thirty Nine Thousand Six Hundred Forty Pesos (P14,339,640.00) being the total Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the above project. Bids received that exceed the ABC for each Schedule shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The PROCURING ENTITY now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the Procurement of Various Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Resources for the Corporation:

Schedule	ITEM	QUANTITY	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT
I	Desktop Computers	50 sets	P 6,059,200.00
	Notebook Computers	10 sets	
	Network Laser Printer	4 sets	
II	Digital Imaging/Document Scanner	3 sets	P 420,000.00
	Digital Imaging/Document Scanner (High Speed)	1 set	
III	Storage Area Network (SAN) solution components for business continuity requirement	1 lot	P 5,600,000.00
IV	LCD Projector with Document Reader	1 set	P 156,800.00
V	Upgrade and Renewal of Anti-Virus for 102 users and Additional 148 users license	1 lot	P 1,862,840.00
VI	Server Raid Controller for IBM xSeries Server	2 pcs.	P 240,800.00
	Local Area Network (LAN) Tester with Toner Tracer	1 set	
	TOTAL		P14,339,640.00

The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of R.A. 9184, and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to R.A. 5183. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the PROCURING ENTITY and inspect the Bidding Documents starting **March 10, 2006** at the address given below from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Interested Bidders from the address below from **March 10 to 16, 2006** and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00), either in cash or check. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The PROCURING ENTITY will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties who have purchased a complete set of Bidding Documents on **March 17, 2006, 4:00 PM** at the PSALM Boardroom, 2nd Floor, SGV II Building, Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before **10:00 AM of March 30, 2006.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in an amount, in Philippine Peso, equivalent to one percent (1%), if in the form of cash, cashier's or certified check, or irrevocable letter of credit, or one and one-half percent (1 ½ %), if in the form of bank guarantee, computed on the basis of the total ABC for the Schedules for which bids will be submitted.

Only bids submitted in conformity with the Bid Form and Bid Price Schedule provided shall be accepted. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be on **March 30, 2006 10:00 AM** at PSALM Boardroom, 2nd Floor, SGV II Building, Ayala Avenue Makati City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend the proceedings

The PROCURING ENTITY reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

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(SGD.) **FROILAN A. TAMPINCO**
Acting Chairperson, PSALM Bids and Award Committee

(PDI–March 9 & 16, 2006)

Sequestration of 4 Tan firms revoked

By Nelson F. Flores

THE SANDIGANBAYAN FIFTH DIVISION yesterday revoked the government's sequestration of four firms owned by taipan Lucio Tan after the Presidential Commission on Good Government failed to prove the legality of the seizure orders issued in 1986.

In a 59-page decision issued last March 2 by Justice Teresita Diaz Baldos, the antigraft court ordered the government to cease from further involvement in the control and management of Allied Banking Corp., Fortune Tobacco Corp., Foremost Farms and Shareholdings Inc.

The antigraft court declared as null and void the writs of sequestration issued against Tan's shares in Allied Bank, Foremost Farms, Fortune Tobacco and Shareholdings.

The Sandigan also nullified the writs of sequestration issued on the shares of stock of Mariano Tanenglian, Iris Holdings and Development Corp., Virgo Holdings and Development Corp. and Jewel Holdings, Inc. in the four companies.

"The Court finds and so holds that the questioned writs of sequestration were issued without the requisite prima facie factual foundation that the properties covered thereby are 'ill-gotten' wealth. (T)here is sufficient reason to impel this Court to declare them as null and void and to terminate the role of government as conservator of the properties covered thereby," the Sandiganbayan ruling said.

Fifth Division Associate Justices Roland B. Jurado and division chair Ma. Cristina Cortez-Estrada concurred with Baldos' decision which came more than six years after they were filed before the Sandiganbayan.

In September 1986, Tan and his co-petitioners asked the Supreme Court to nullify the sequestration orders but the high court referred the matter to the Sandiganbayan on Feb. 15, 1990.

The petitioners challenged the PCGG takeover on the grounds that the writs were void because they were signed by only two members of the commission; the writs have lapsed into infectivity for lack of judicial confirmation that the properties they covered were ill-gotten wealth; and that the writs were issued despite the absence of a prima facie evidence that the subject firms constitute ill-gotten wealth.

The Sandiganbayan overruled the first argument noting that signatures by two PCGG commissioners were all that was needed to make them valid.

Likewise, it held that the writs did not expire because the PCGG filed the case within the required six-month period from the ratification of the 1987 Constitution.

However, it found merit in the third ground raised by Tan and his co-petitioners, noting that there was nothing in the 190 pieces of documentary evidence submitted by the government that would support the issuance of the writs of sequestration.

Sandigan orders arrest of general's family

By Nelson F. Flores

THE SANDIGANBAYAN YESTERDAY ORdered the arrest of the wife and three sons of retired Armed Forces comptroller Maj. Gen. Carlos F. Garcia in connection with a P303-million plunder case filed against all five of them by the Ombudsman nearly a year ago.

Justice Edilberto Sandoval, chair of the Sandiganbayan's Second Division, provided for no bail in issuing the order against Garcia's wife Clarita and their children, Ian Carl, Juan Paulo and Timothy Mark.

Garcia himself, who was sentenced by a military court last December to two years at hard labor, has been detained at Camp Crame. He was convicted of conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman and conduct prejudicial to good order for not declaring his real assets and for possessing a "green card," which signifies US residence.

The arrest order came after the court upheld the Ombudsman's finding of probable cause to prosecute the Garcias on a charge of conspiracy to amass at least P303.2 million in ill-gotten wealth from 1993 to 2004, or from the time Garcia was an Army colonel until he became AFP deputy chief of staff for comptrollership.

The charge sheet described Garcia's wife and children as his "conduits and willing receptacles."

PNP seeks custody of 5 party-list solons

By Luige A. del Puerto and Norman Bordadora

THE POLICE YESTERDAY pressed for the custody of five militant lawmakers charged with rebellion but said they would not force their way if the House of Representatives would reject their request, a police spokesperson said.

Party-list Representatives Satur Ocampo, Liza Maza, Joel Virador, Rafael Mariano and Teodoro Casiño were earlier placed under the custody of House Speaker Jose de Venecia.

The Philippine National Police indicated that the five would be detained at the PNP Custodial Center .in Camp Crame once Congress turn over the lawmakers to them.

The Custodial Center holds a few high-profile persons suspected of involvement in criminal and terroristic activities, such as the notorious police renegade Rizal Alih.

Anakpawis Rep. Crispin Beltran, another lawmaker charged with rebellion, was brought to the same detention center before he was transferred to the PNP General Hospital.

After Maza left Congress for the Senate on Monday night, the police petitioned the Department of Justice seeking custody of the five lawmakers.

"We are in the waiting mode at this time," said police spokesperson Sr. Supt. Samuel Pagdilao. "We will have to wait for the ruling of the DOJ."

The police officer assured the five congressmen and their supporters that none would be arrested should a preliminary investigation push through at the DOJ.

Noli has high hopes for doomed Filipina

By Nikko Dizon

VICE PRESIDENT Noli de Castro arrived yesterday from Kuwait , hopeful that Filipino worker Marilou Ranario would be spared from the death penalty by the government of the oil-rich country.

"I feel that we have hope that even if we won't be able to get the victim's family to forgive Ranario, at least her punishment could be lowered. These were the words of the emir himself," De Castro told reporters at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Pinoy toddler to undergo liver transplant in HK

THANKS TO GENEROUS DONORS, A sick Filipino boy will finally undergo a liver transplant today in Hong Kong, with his own mother serving as donor.

The latest to contribute and finally enable the toddler's family to raise the amount required in the two surgeries was a Singaporean couple, the Department of Foreign Affairs reported yesterday.

The couple, who requested anonymity, donated HK$250,000 (P1.6 million) to help save the life of two-and-a-half year-old Mark Jairuz Mendoza, according to the Philippine consulate in the former British colony. *Volt Contreras*

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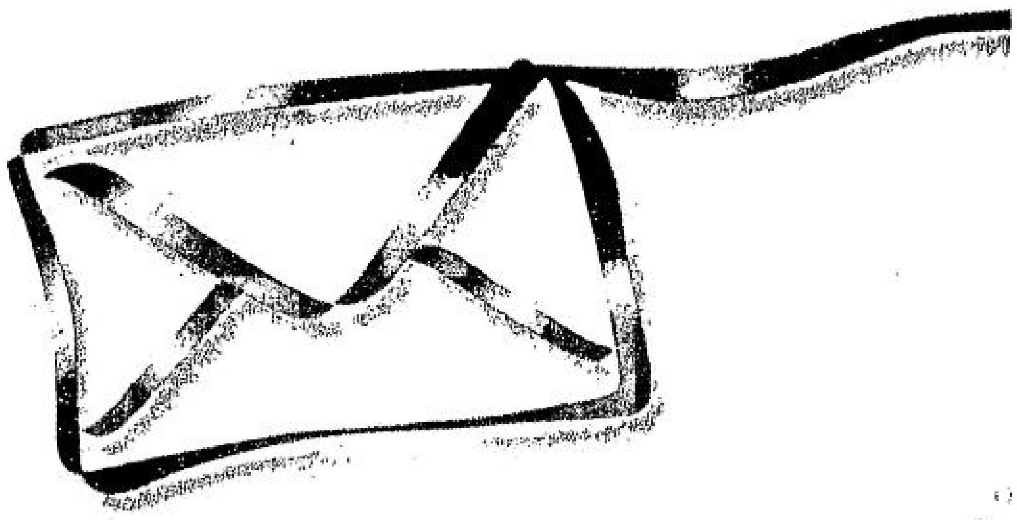

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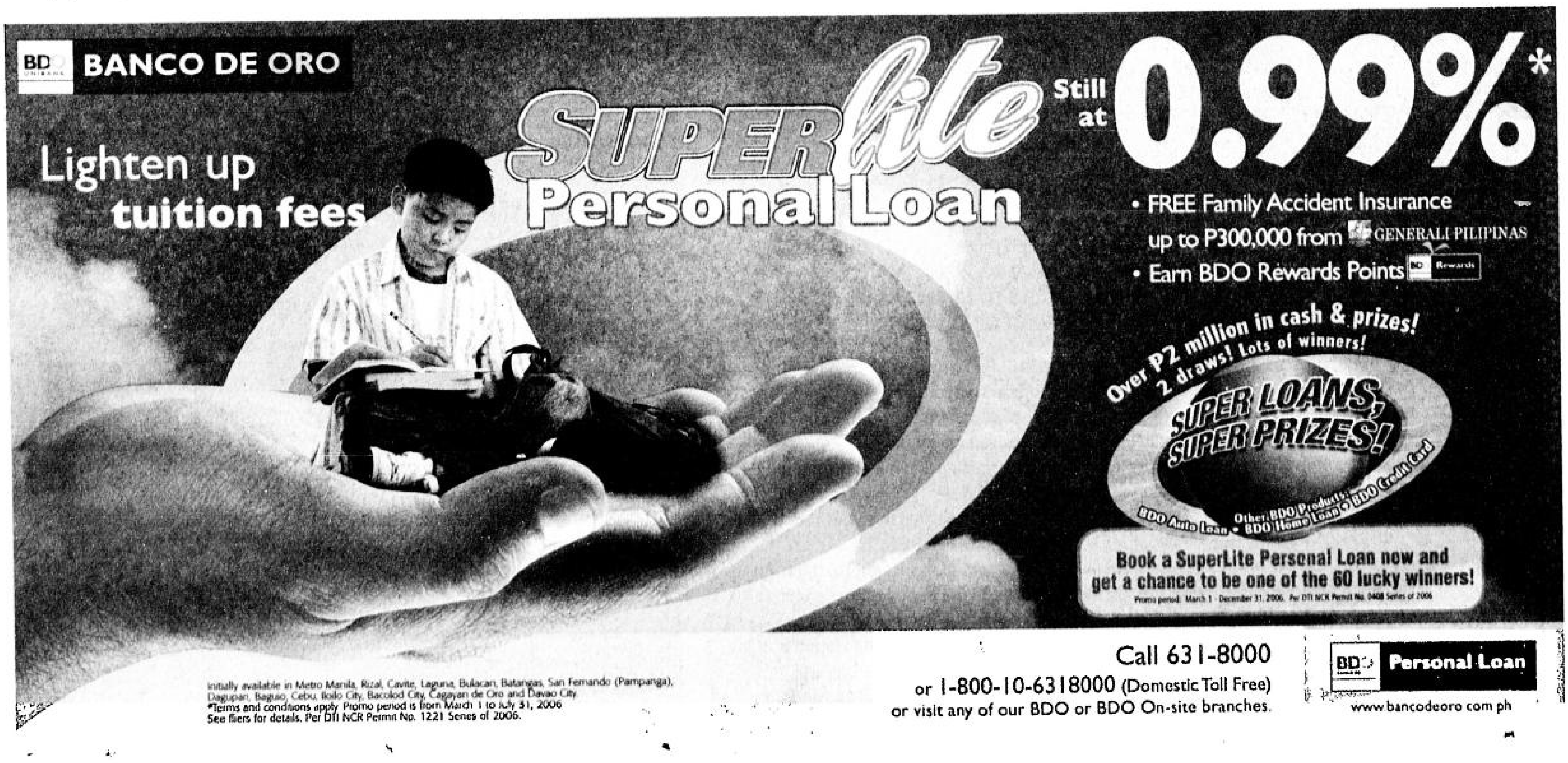

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Philippine Institute for Supply Management

SUPPLYLINK INTRODUCTION

Supplylink 2006 is the Philippine Institute for Supply Management's 14th Annual Conference and Trade Exhibit. Supplylink 2006 highlights supply chain transformation as the most effective way of making a difference in business organizations. The event tackles the different facets of supply chain management on supply and general management, strategic sourcing, supplier relationship management, services and logistics providing its participants with a comprehensive view of how supply chains can be transformed to complement and contribute to business objectives.

Considered as the country's largest gathering of top supply management professionals, Supplylink features a priceless face-to-face educational experience through our short courses, topnotch speakers and networking opportunities. More so, it showcases the latest product innovations in the areas of office equipment, materials handling and storage, transportation and distribution, MRO supplies, IT application, among others.

Through the years, PISM has been consistently providing its delegates the most stimulating, appropriate and relevant information in the purchasing and supply chain management context.

ABOUT PISM

Founded in 1968, Philippine Institute for Supply Management (PISM) remains to be at the forefront of the country's supply management excellence. PISM, a non-stock, non-profit organization of supply management professionals, champions new systems, techniques and strategic practices.

From its 98 member companies during its first year, PISM has close to 300 member companies coming from various industries located in Metro Manila and 3 provincial chapters to boot.

Through its seminars, industry group forum, conferences and other activities, PISM continues to be an effective source of new methods, technologies and ideas from the business world. The association also serves as a venue for networking and benchmarking among its members.

PISM's mission is "To be a key contributor to our member companies' success and to the country's global competitiveness by championing the upliftment of the supply management profession and the continuous development of its practitioners to the highest ethical and world class standards".

PISM also envisions itself to be a world class prime mover and resource center of supply chain management and leadership excellence in Asia.

True to its vision and mission, PISM is continuously strengthening its alliances with international organizations. It is a C.P.M. (Certified Purchasing Manager) allied member of the Institute for Supply Management (ISM) based in Arizona, USA, an affiliate of the International Federation of Purchasing and Supply Management (IFPSM) based in Netherlands and the International Trade Center - United Nations (ITC-UNCTAD CNUCED WTO OUC)

C.P.M. REVIEW PROGRAM

PISM as an allied member of the Institute for Supply Management (ISM) based in Arizona, USA offers the globally recognized designation for supply chain management professionals. The Certified Purchasing Manager (C.P.M.) review program is designed for experienced supply managers and focuses on managerial and leadership skills, plus a variety of specialized functions designed to enhance the effectiveness of supply managers within their organization.

DIPLOMA IN PURCHASING AND SUPPLY MANAGEMENT

In February 2003, PISM in partnership with the De La Salle College of St. Benilde School of Professional and Continuing Education launched the six-module, 22-day post graduate program intended for professionals and fresh college graduates who are new to the purchasing and supply management profession. Each module completed entitles each student with a certificate while completion of all modules entitles each student with a diploma.

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION MAJOR IN PURCHASING AND SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT

PISM in partnership with the University of Makati offers the Asia's first college degree program in purchasing and supply chain management. Composed of 13 major subjects and a total of 1,000 hours of OJT, the course aims to equip its graduates with a working knowledge of purchasing and supply chain management by transforming the classroom setup into a training ground of students as the Professional Development Commission trainors transfer their knowledge based on years of professional experience.

PROFESSIONAL SEMINARS

PISM values the professional development of the supply chain practitioner. To achieve this, we regularly conduct public and in-house seminars aimed at improving their skills and know-how.

Our courses start with fundamentals leading to advanced courses and general management. Specific courses or programs can be also tailor made to the requirements of each company or institution.

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PROCLAMATION NO. 1020

DECLARING THE PERIOD FROM MARCH 6 TO 10, 2006 AS PURCHASING & SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT WEEK

WHEREAS the Philippine Institute for Supply Management (PISM), is a non-stock, non-profit organization of purchasing and materials managers of the country's top corporations;

WHEREAS purchasing and materials managers and PISM help upgrade the quality and competitiveness of Philippine goods and services for both the domestic and foreign markets;

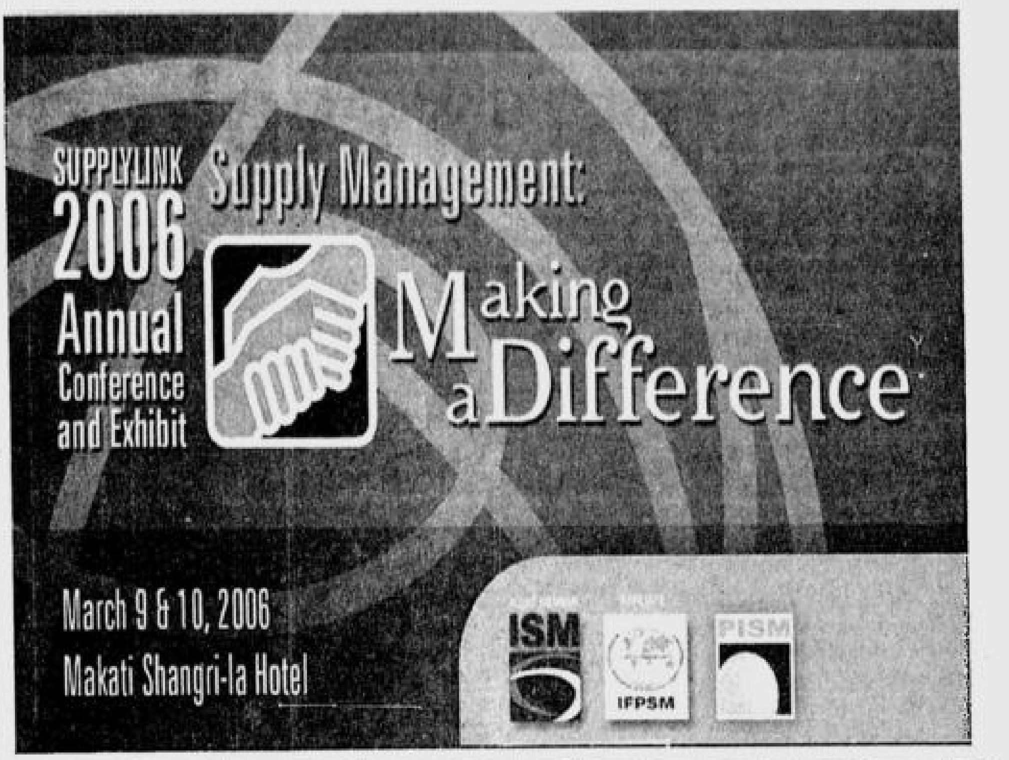
WHEREAS it is desirable that the important role played by the purchasing and materials managers in commerce and industry be brought to the attention of the people;

WHEREAS the PISM will celebrate its 14th National Convention and Exhibit this year called SUPPLYLINK 2006, with the theme "SUPPLY MANAGEMENT: MAKING A DIFFERENCE".

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, President of the Republic of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by law, do hereby declared the period from March 6 to 10, 2006 as Purchasing and Supply Chain Management Week.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Republic of the Philippines to be affixed.

Done in the City of Manila, this 2nd day of March, in the year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Six.



Messages

Warmest greetings to the Philippine Institute for Supply Management (PISM) as you hold the 14th National Conference and Trade Exhibit entitled, "SUPPLYLINK 2006." Your theme, "Supply Management: Making A Difference," indicates your earnest desire to provide industrial users and customers with latest technology and products that are helpful in purchasing and materials management. May this trade showcase serve as an effective springboard for the application of the latest technologies in our various industries. By being the best in your field of supply management, you assist your clients into becoming the best they can be in the global market. Let us work hand-in-hand to create a conducive working environment for all local and foreign investors. We can play to our strengths by showing the best of our workers. We can beat the odds and attain a better life for our people.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

(SGD.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President, Republic of the Philippines

Supply Management is a function stepping into the limelight, taking center stage amid all the activities that make business and organizations successful. There is thus an increasing need for supply professionals to be equipped with the skill set combination of functional core competencies and leadership qualities that will allow them to respond to this new role. Recognizing this need and the widening scope of supply management, PISM is leading the charts to be at the forefront of the profession. Its various programs and activities are dedicated not only to providing its members and others with the key educational, informational and networking tools to succeed but also to elevating and promoting supply management throughout the business world. One such offering is our annual conference and trade exhibit. The conference committee, the board of directors, the secretariat and TeamAsia, our event organizer, have worked hard to give you Supplylink 2006: Making A Difference. I hope that you are able to maximize all the learning and networking opportunities it offers.

Maraming Salamat.

(SGD.) MINERVA M. AGAS
President, PISM

The organizing committee and myself would like to welcome you to the 14th Philippine Institute for Supply Management (PISM) Annual Conference and Trade Exhibit - Supplylink 2006. This year's theme: "Supply Management: Making A Difference" speaks for itself. The Purchasing and Supply Management profession has helped a lot in today's corporations' bottomline. Constantly, Purchase and Supply Management professionals are challenged to remain updated in this ever-changing environment. Supplylink 2006 kicks off with an Executive Forum for Supply Management Heads. A mix of foreign and local speakers for our 21 technical sessions on different aspects of the supply management profession will give us inputs, insights and solutions to help us cope with today's trends and challenges.

Thank you for being a part of this year's annual conference.

(SGD.) ANGEL V. GATCHALIAN, JR., C.P.M.
1st Vice President, PISM

Welcome to the Supplylink 2006 entitled Supply Management: Making A Difference. We are proud to present to you our line-up of select and highly relevant technical and general management topics to put you in the forefront of current trends and practices in supply management whether your role is operational or on the functional or strategic management. There are 6 tracks with 21 topics arranged to maximize exposure and learning. We want you to make a difference. This year we have invited key executives of member companies in charge of supply management for a special session called Executive Forum to address supply management issues at that level. Once again we hope that you will benefit from this year's conference that achieves one of the institute key objectives, that is, to equip its members and other practitioners of supply chain management particularly in the field of procurement and materials management with the new perspectives, opportunities and linkages that will enable them to focus with confidence to drive their companies to greater competitiveness through supply chain innovation. On behalf of the officers and directors of the Philippine Institute for Supply Management and the Supplylink 2006 committee, MABUHAY!

(SGD.) PAUL A. HAMOY
Supplylink1 Director-in-charge, PISM

The supply management function has become a critical competitive arena of organizations today brought about by the continuous pressure to reduce cost, improve quality and faster time-to-market. Organizations who are better equipped and who are more efficient supply management are in better position to a sustainable competitiveness. The Philippine Institute for Supply Management (PISM) has, through the years, been at the forefront in uplifting and equipping the competency, knowledge and skills of its membership, the supply management professionals, to be world class contributor in their respective organizations. This is achieved through continuous research and development, benchmarking of best practices, trainings, seminars and conferences. Today, we are holding our 2006 Supplylink, an annual conference geared towards sharing of best practices in the area of supply management. Our theme for this year is very appropriate and timely. For supply management has become the forefront of every organization's success. Truly, Supply Management is Making A Difference in organizations today.

On behalf of PISM's officers and board of directors, welcome, enjoy and learn. Let's Make A Difference.

(SGD.) HILARIO ROMIL A. ACOSTA, JR., C.P.M.
Supplylink2 Director-in-charge, PISM

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Angara wants Cha-cha to cut GMA, Noli terms

By TJ Burgonio

SEN. EDGARDO ANGARA PROposed yesterday that Congress amend the Constitution but limit the changes to revamping the Commission on Elections and cutting the terms of both President Macapagal-Arroyo and Vice President Noli de Castro to extricate the country from the political morass.

"If we agree on this with the House, we will file a joint resolution to shorten the term of both the President and Vice President so that it will usher in a fresh election.... Then the question of illegitimacy and mandate will be laid to rest," Angara told reporters.

He said the joint resolution would form the basis for amending the Charter, with the amendments "strictly confined to the two propositions."

Malacañang and supporters of Ms Arroyo in the House of Representatives quickly shot down the proposal.

'Suntok sa buwan'

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita called the proposal "*Suntok sa buwan*," or a stab in the dark, noting that the Constitution provides for specific procedures on how to change elective officials.

"I happen to have talked to a senator who told me if that happens, definitely, he will not support it because there's no basis in law," Ermita said.

House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles and Rep. Prospero Pichay, vice chair of the Commission on Appointments, said in a statement that the House majority would not support Angara's proposal because what it wants is a shift to a unicameral parliamentary system of government.

The congressmen said that having the President cut short her term to go through another election "does not appear to be a clear solution to the impasse."

"The main problem ... is that those against the President won't stop trying to oust her even by force which is against the law," the congressmen's statement added. "Let's just follow the Constitution which set her six-year mandate and we won't have problems anymore."

'Political paralysis'

Angara said that to end the current "political paralysis," Ms Arroyo and De Castro should cut short their terms to pave the way for snap elections under a revamped Commission on Elections.

"As long as this political standoff remains where the administration is digging in and the opposition is just crying out loud, but in the meantime the business of the nation is practically not cared for, we really have this situation of paralysis," he said.

Asked when he thought the six-year terms of the two highest officials should be cut, Andaya replied, "No time-frame. We must leave those details now and not pre-determine it because it is like pre-conditioning if we mention a fixed schedule."

Angara said he thought Ms Arroyo "will listen" to his proposed Senate-House resolution.

"The advantage of this option is that it is the people who decide. She will not say that she was forced out of it. It is the people who have spoken. And it is a painless way. I will take the position if I were in her shoes," he added.

With Christine O Avendaño

Ulap presses Cha-cha bid

THE UMBRELLA GROUP OF 1.7 million local executives across the country is determined to put the issue of Charter change back on the national agenda after President Macapagal-Arroyo lifted the state of national emergency.

The Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines made this declaration in a press statement yesterday as it renewed its call on the House of Representatives to speed up its proposed conversion of Congress into a Constituent Assembly that would rewrite the 1987 Charter.

At the same time, Ulap said it was embarking on a nationwide campaign to cement popular support for Charter change and raise public awareness of the constitutional amendments needed to overhaul the country's political and economic structures.

"These parallel reform moves have acquired a greater sense of urgency following President Arroyo's declaration that the country is back to normal after last week's lifting of the state of national emergency, and that systemic changes in our political system are now necessary to make sure the economic reforms that had been set in place in her watch would translate into a better life for the overwhelming majority of our people," said Bohol Gov. Erico Aumentado.

Aumentado, who heads both Ulap and the League of Provinces of the Philippines (LPP), was reacting to President Arroyo's declaration in a nationwide radio hook-up Tuesday morning that Charter change should now be put back on center stage, to ensure that political reforms needed to keep the country's economic takeoff on track, are put in place at the soonest.

"We support this week's announcement by the House leadership that it would rush the collection of the 195 signatures needed to convert Congress into ConAss," Aumentado said. "This is in keeping with our weekend proposal for a multi-partisan initiative to put the spotlight back on Charter change, more so now when the latest political crisis has been resolved quickly enough – thanks to the President's tough call on PP 1017."

Pfizer sues gov't for patent infringement

PFIZER INC. SAID YESTERDAY IT HAS FILED suit in the Philippines to stop the government from importing unauthorized copies of drugs with patents that are owned by the US-based pharmaceutical giant.

However, government officials insisted the drug they wanted to import was made by a Pfizer licensee in India and that no imports would be made until the patent expired.

Pfizer said it filed a civil suit in a Manila court last week charging the state-owned Philippine International Trading Corp (PITC) and the regulatory body Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD) with patent infringement.

The suit alleges the government was preparing to import a version of the Pfizer's anti-hypertension drug, Norvasc, from India, made by a company not licensed to produce the drug.

The company also warned that such unauthorized copies may not be safe.

Teddy Rivera, executive vice president of PITC said the government was only planning to import the version of Norvasc when the patent expires, which Pfizer said will occur in June 2007.

He said the drug would be imported from Pakistan and India but remarked that it would come from licensed producers of Pfizer.

PITC president Roberto Pagdanganan said in a statement the Norvasc imports would serve as low-cost substitutes.

He accused Pfizer of "harassing PITC" with its suit.

Pfizer spokesmen alleged the government's procedures would allow the importation of the drug even without informing the company even if the patent had not expired. **AFP**

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17 liable for stampede; criminal charges set

From page A1

not performing their duties under the law."

"We ... deplore the manner by which the NBI has arrived at its conclusions and recommendations in seeking to charge ABS-CBN officials and employees perceived to be liable without factual or legal basis, as well as whitewashing the clear liabilities of others responsible," it said.

The public information officer of the Pasig government apologized and said an official statement would be issued shortly. *"Bukas na po, pasensya na po,"* he said.

PIM prize

Thousands of fans, mostly elderly women from poor communities, had camped out at the PhilSports gates days before the event, hoping to get into the first-anniversary show of "Wowowee" and win prizes including P1 million.

In the early morning of Feb. 4, the fans rushed to one of the gates after it became apparent that not everyone would get tickets to the show.

Security guards shut the gate, and those at the front were crushed to death.

The other officers and employees of ABS-CBN facing charges are Marilou Almaden, executive producer; Morly Stewart, executive producer and "Wowowee" manager; Harold James Nueva, "Wowowee" associate producer for sets; Norberto Vidanes, "Wowowee" director; Rey Cayabyab, assistant location manager and security coordinator; Francisco Rivera, location manager; Mel Feliciano, "Wowowee" assistant director; and Jean Owen Garcia, "Wowowee" floor director.

Also facing the same charges are Jess Velardo, PhilSports building administrator; Erlinda Reis, PhilSports booking and events coordinator; Rosenbar Viloria, staff director for operations of Goldlink Security and Allied Services Inc.; and Wilfron Onanad and Chito Payumo, Goldlink security in charge.

First person called

According to NBI National Capital Region chief Ruel Lasala, Concio, who heads ABS-CBN's Entertainment Group, approved the plans for the anniversary show.

"Executive producer Almaden, in her affidavit, said Concio was the first person she called when she learned of the stampede," Lasala said in a press conference at the NBI.

Lasala also said Revillame was "consistent in his invitation" to "Wowowee" fans to go to the PhilSports Arena for the anniversary show, as shown in ABS-CBN video tapes from Jan. 30 to Feb. 3.

Revillame had earlier confirmed previous reports that he visited the site days before the stampede. But he said in his affidavit that he was not able to learn the actual number of people massing within the premises because the areas he visited were "select and limited."

But Lasala said Revillame "should have been able to assess the number of people there and [desisted from] calling on the fans to proceed to the site on Feb. 3, where an estimated crowd of 17,000 had already gathered."

Lasala also said that based on the statements of witnesses, people had begun to gather at the venue on Jan. 30 and camped outside the PhilSports Arena for almost five days.

Emergency meeting

"The people slept, urinated and even defecated in the area, in order to ensure their place in the line," he said, adding:

"The tension was even heightened when the game show staff announced that not everyone would be allowed to enter the venue."

Alarmed at the huge turnout of people, the "Wowowee" personnel held an emergency meeting the night before the stampede, Lasala said.

"They decided to give out 40 raffle tickets promising P200,000 worth of cash prizes to make the non-winning fans go home. But the plan did not work," he said.

When the gate on Capt. Javier Street was closed at past 6 a.m. after the fans started jostling each other, a stampede ensued, he said.

Lasala recounted a "horrific" incident wherein fans still demanded tickets despite the stampede.

"ABS-CBN apparently lacked foresight in preventing the tragedy from happening," Lasala said.

"If you are the event host, you must be responsible for the preparations," he said. "They should have had a clear-cut, comprehensive security plan, which included crowd control and contingency plans."

'Proper authority'

ABS-CBN said it would submit to any preliminary investigation conducted by the DOJ, which, it pointed out, "should be the proper authority" to conduct such a probe.

"The NBI has informed us that it has submitted to the DOJ 'only recommendations' and has not yet filed a criminal complaint for negligence. We have yet to see a copy of this report," the network said.

It added: "Significantly, no other complaints have as yet been filed, and yet the NBI chose to lodge those unfounded recommendations.

"We maintain our confidence in the justice system and will see the NBI [at] the DOJ and in the courts."

With a report from DJ Yap

Don't blame GMA for abuses, say President's men

By Armand N. Nocum

IF THERE WERE ABUSES COMmitted by police and the military during the weeklong state of national emergency, President Macapagal-Arroyo could not be blamed for them, Malacañang's legal eagles say.

In separate interviews yesterday, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez and Solicitor General Alfredo Benipayo said there was no way the President could oversee the entire implementation of Presidential Proclamation No. 1017.

On Friday, Ms Arroyo lifted her Feb. 24 emergency proclamation, saying a plot to oust her by a "cabal" of communist guerrillas, disgruntled soldiers, politicians and businessmen had been aborted.

But civil rights groups questioned the legality of the proclamation and protested alleged abuses of basic rights, pointing to the raid on The Daily Tribune and arrests without warrants.

"You can't blame the President for unlawful application of the law," Benipayo told reporters at the end of oral arguments on seven petitions assailing the constitutionality of PP 1017 before the Supreme Court on Tuesday.

Gonzalez said there "could have been violations" of the intent of PP 1017, but he explained that there could be difficulty in enforcing the law to the letter.

"No implementation is perfect," Gonzalez said.

During Tuesday's hearing, Benipayo told the court justices that 1017 did not contain a provision authorizing warrantless arrests and searches, raids and confiscations.

In issuing 1017, Benipayo asserted that the President merely exercised her constitutional powers as Commander in Chief, calling attention to the existence of a state of national emergency.

If there were violations by the military and police, he said those acts should not be "condoned."

"If at all, the erring officers may independently be made answerable for such unwanted acts, for which the appropriate remedy is given under existing administrative civil and penal laws," Benipayo added.

Benipayo asked the high tribunal to compel the petitioners to go after violators of civil liberties in court.

One woman in women's mind on Women's Day

From page A1

exactly a year ago yesterday.

"To equate her leadership skills to being a woman is, I think, an oxymoron, because she just happened to be a woman, said Soliman, who was wearing a black shirt festooned with anti-Arroyo stickers.

Unprecedented

"Everything that she's been doing to cover up the crime has been what I'd call, to the point of being ruthless, a side that I never thought existed in her," Soliman said.

Former Vice President Teofisto Guingona, ever visible in protest actions, was also present at the march.

"I was invited here today because I'm joining the crusade for respect for women, especially since they become leaders and can show that they are just as good as men," said Guingona.

Tagged "Martsa ng Kababaihan," the activity took protesters through Ayala Avenue in both directions, then around Paseo de Roxas.

Organizers called it an unprecedented gathering of groups advocating women's rights from the militant and religious sectors, the middle force, and the political opposition.

Police estimated the crowd at 5,500, roughly 70 percent of whom were women. Organizers said the gathering peaked at 10,000.

Members of militant umbrella organizations Laban ng Masa and Bayan, which brought a large contingent through the women's alliance Gabriela, marched down the same roads in Makati's Central Business District at 3 p.m. yesterday.

Supporters of Ms Arroyo's opponents in the May 2004 elections also streamed into Ayala Avenue: the National Coordinating Council for Volunteers, which supported the late actor and opposition standard-bearer Fernando Poe Jr., and Bangon Women, an organization under Bangon Pilipinas of evangelist Bro. Eddie Villanueva, also a presidential candidate.

The Black and White Movement, a middle-forces organization born at the height of the anti-Arroyo protests last year, also joined the activity.

Red flags marked a sea of purple and pink banners hoisted by protesters chanting "Never Again! Never Again! Never Again to Martial Law!" and "Sigaw ng Kababaihan, Gloria Resign!"

At 5 p.m., a program of speeches and songs began on a convertible truck parked in front of the Ninoy Aquino Monument.

Antiriot cops

Police were on standby throughout the activity, with more than 100 antiriot cops at the ready.

The Makati Police Department (MPD) said City Hall had granted a permit for the activity until 7 p.m. The protesters dispersed peacefully at 7:15 p.m.

MPD chief Senior Supt. Marietto Valerio lamented that the activity, which was supposed to be a celebration of Women's Day, turned out to be like any other anti-Arroyo rally.

He said organizers had promised not to carry banners with antiadministration messages but the protesters still managed to bring large streamers bearing the words "Oust Gloria!"

Antiriot cops mar women's rally, arrest Rep. Risa Baraquel

From page A1

tary immunity against the Quezon City police for arresting her.

Blocked by cops

Earlier in the day, Baraquel, Mata and hundreds of other women massed at the Mabuhay Rotonda at the boundary between Quezon City and Manila, intending to march on Mendiola for a protest rally. But they were blocked by a phalanx of policemen.

Undeterred, the women of the APL and Akbayan, among other groups, held a program at the rotonda raising women's issues and demanding Ms Arroyo's ouster.

After an hour-long negotiation, San Diego gave them five minutes to disperse. But the women stood their ground—until the policemen started shoving them using shields and batons.

Some of the women and their male colleagues scattered and ran away; some fought back by throwing rocks, prompting the cops to give chase.

At around 11:45 a.m., policemen and women tried to escort Baraquel toward a police van.

She resisted, telling them not to touch her and yelling at the cops not to hurt the demonstrators.

Insult

Jean Enriquez of the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women-Asia Pacific said the dispersal was an "insult" to the women who had no plan of violence in staging the protest action.

"The violence came from their end," she said, referring to the police.

San Diego justified the dispersal, saying it was necessary to restore order along España Street, which had been closed to traffic during the women's program.

He said the police had allowed the groups to hold their program until 11:30 a.m. and even extended that deadline by 10 minutes, then five minutes more, before proceeding with the dispersal.

"I thought PP 1017 has been lifted. Apparently, violating human rights has not been lifted yet," said Rose Tajano of Kanlungan.

Baraquel added: "[Ms Arroyo] exemplifies oppression, and this is clearly manifested by her tyrannical tendencies. First, she declared PP 1017, and now even after it was lifted, her administration continues to repress people's rights."

Aside from demanding the President's ouster, the women raised gender issues such as violence against women, child pornography and the Subic rape case, among other things.

In the Visayas

Anti-Arroyo rallies were also held in key cities in the Visayas in commemoration of International Women's Day.

Bacolod Bishop Vicente Navarra, wearing a black armband like most of his priests, led about 8,000 Negrenses in a march to the city's public plaza to say "never again" to martial law and PP 1017.

The bishop said the black armbands stood for the death of human rights, of the liberal and free space for people to speak out and air their grievances, and, in a sense, of democracy.

"If truth liberates, then all falsehoods enslave. A nation that is fed and thrives on lies, half-truths and double-talk is not truly free. It is under the shackles of the 'father of lies'," Navarra said in a pastoral letter he read during the rally.

In Iloilo, Aklan and Capiz, protesters were unfazed by Ms Arroyo's earlier statement that she might again use emergency powers.

Around 1,500 protesters led by the militant women's group Gabriela and the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan assembled in front of the University of the Philippines in the Visayas campus in Iloilo City before marching to the Iloilo Rotary Amphitheater where they held a program and a mini-concert.

Bayan-Panay spokesperson Aurelio Bosque said the rally was also a "victory march" for the lifting of PP 1017.

"The determined opposition and defiance of the people against her tyrannical rule forced her to lift the order. But we will remain vigilant and vow to fight back if the suppression of our civil rights continues," said Bosque.

With reports from Carla P. Gomez, Nestor Burgos Jr. and Joey Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau

GMA invocation of God angers religious leaders

From page A1

gious leaders.

Bro. Eddie Villanueva, head of the 2-million-strong Jesus is Lord Movement and Bangon Pilipinas, cautioned Ms Arroyo against using God's name "in vain."

"How can cheating or the manipulation of election results, the unabated graft and corruption in the government, the suppression of civil and political rights ... be ever part of God's plan or choice?" the evangelist said in an e-mail to the INQUIRER.

In a 30-minute interview on dzBB radio on Tuesday, the 58-year-old President said that God had willed her being the country's leader.

"I believe that I am here now because that is the plan of God for me and for us," she said.

Ms Arroyo has been hounded by allegations she stole the May 2004 presidential election. The charges stemmed from revelations in wiretapped conversations during the balloting purportedly between her and former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano.

Opposition lawmakers have announced plans to revive impeachment proceedings against Ms Arroyo. Last year, her majority allies in the House killed the process on a technicality. Without a closure to what has been called the "Hello Garci" controversy, doubts about Ms Arroyo's legitimacy persist.

'Back to Hello, Garci'

Lipa Archbishop Ramon Arguelles expressed doubt that God "will want to get involved in Philippine politics."

"If the President says so, she better not fail God," Arguelles said. "What she claims is a very serious responsibility. She can go so deep in hell if she does not behave like someone close to God."

If indeed she were chosen by God, Ms Arroyo should steer the country toward observing God's commandment, particularly against stealing and bearing false witness, the prelate said.

"Whether she is God's choice for this time or not, she, as well as all Filipinos who believe in God, should have a change of heart and promote God's best designs for our people, especially the poor," Arguelles said.

Borongan Bishop Leonardo Medroso said anybody could claim the hand of God but "whether it's true or not based on reality is always the question."

Medroso earlier urged the administration to heed the advice in the Catholic bishops' pastoral letter calling for a relentless search for the truth behind the "Hello Garci" controversy.

Filipinos want GMA out

Villanueva said many Filipinos would not be asking for Ms Arroyo's resignation if she had been placed in Malacañang by no less than God.

"But more than 80 percent have already expressed dissatisfaction over her governance. [The] majority want her to step down," he said.

"She is illegitimate not only in the eyes of the majority of the Filipinos but even in the eyes of God," said Villanueva, who lost in the 2004 presidential election.

He said measures such as the weeklong imposition of a state of national emergency, the barring of officials from appearing in congressional hearings and the "calibrated preemptive response" in clamping down on protests "clearly do not come from God."

"It is not God's will that the rights of His people are quelled," Villanueva said.

"It is not the will of God to support a leader who perpetrates corruption, who promotes police brutality through CPR or suppresses truth in investigations through EO 464."

'God's will'

In his weekly press briefing, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita seconded Ms Arroyo's assertion that God was on her side.

"Nobody can go against God's will, I tell you, not even, oh my gosh, the religious, the men of the cloth," said Ermita. "In the end, that is God's will that will prevail."

When pressed if he meant that the public should just accept their lot, he replied: "It's God's will. It's God's will."

"Everything that we are in this universe is God's will. Where you are situated, where we are, that is God's will. All we know is that if we believe in God, we know that God has deemed us to be something, to be someone," said Ermita.

This view, he claimed, was also shared by Muslims. Quoting a message from a Libyan ambassador, Ermita said: "Whatever Allah says, he merely says 'Be' and it will happen."

Testing God's will?

Asked if those seeking the President's ouster should be considered as heathen for going against God's will, Ermita replied: "Not necessarily."

He ignored a question whether Ms Arroyo was willing to put God's will to a test by agreeing to a snap election being called by the opposition.

Correction

IN THE MARCH 5 ISSUE, a Talk of the Town article on Page A14—"Jungle Experts"—misstated the number of Scout Rangers who seized the Makati Twin Towers during the 1989 coup attempt against the Aquino administration. According to the 1990 Final Report of the Davide Fact-Finding Commission, the Scout Rangers numbered 500—not 3,000.

The article also misstated the ranks of two rebel officers who figured in the coup attempt. According to the Davide report, Danilo Lim was then a captain—not a colonel; Abraham Purugganan was then a major—not a retired Army colonel.

The article also misstated the names of the leaders of the mutinous Scout Rangers in the attack on the Makati Commercial Center. According to the Davide report, the Scout Rangers were led by Lim and Lt. Col. Rafael Galvez—not Purugganan.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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LPG shows poverty now wears a woman's face

From page A1

cooked over charcoal.

This finding has been validated by an increase in demand for clay stove burners in Metro Manila, she said. Other housewives in middle- and low-income households have started using wood and kerosene.

Guan said that for women LPG was the most relevant indication that the political crisis was the result of the actual economic condition and not due to the political opposition.

The LPG Industry Association of the Philippines confirms that LPG sales have gone down since last year.

"It started in May 2005 due to the continued price increase," said Mercedita Pastrana, executive director of the LPG industry association.

LPG prices, which hit the P500 level in mid-November last year, rose to P552 per 11-kg cylinder in Metro Manila at the beginning of March this year.

Currently, LPG is sold at P490 to P540 per 11-kg cylinder, an increase of more than 100 percent from its price in the same period in 2002.

LPG sales drop

"We really felt the drop. Nowadays, LPG can sell for as high as P560. We're living in tough times," said Bernardo Bolisay, president of the LPG Refillers Association of the Philippines.

Bolisay noted a drop in sales, which he said started in November 2005 with the imposition of the 10-percent expanded value-added tax. The VAT rate was raised to 12 percent last month.

In San Fernando, Pampanga, Best Gas Refilling Plant saw a 30-percent drop in sales in February compared to the sales of the same month last year, Bolisay said.

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ADJUSTING the prices inside a store in Paco, Manila, does not make it any less expensive to the marginalized. Oil firms rolled back their LPG prices by a peso per kilo last week. REM ZAMORA

10-percent decline nationwide

Nationwide, the drop in LPG sales was about 10 percent, but the decline was greater in the Visayas and Mindanao, where alternative sources of energy abound, according to Pastrana.

She said consumers in Luzon may also have resorted to using kerosene or even charcoal.

One can cook meals for the day with just P10 to P20 worth of kerosene.

"But if we compute that, spending P20 a day will amount to P600 a month. A refill of an 11-kg LPG costs around P500," Pastrana said.

Because of the high cost of 11-kg LPG tanks, the Department of Energy is encouraging suppliers to offer cooking gas in tanks with capacities of as little as 1 kg. The small tanks will cost at a little more than P60.

Bolisay noted that people were resorting to charcoal, firewood or even coconut husk.

Peso's reduced purchasing power

Prices of basic goods and services rose by an average of 7.6 percent in February, the highest in eight months.

Guan said President Macapagal-Arroyo's statements about a strong peso masked the reduction in the peso's purchasing power from 79.2 centavos in January 2005 to 74.2 centavos in January.

Guan said Ms Arroyo "has been ecstatic" about the peso's strength and the growth in portfolio investments.

But both indicators rely heavily on the health of the overseas Filipino market, Guan said. Remittances by overseas Filipino workers rose to $10.7 billion in 2005.

She said portfolio investments were not a reliable economic barometer because they do not directly result in new jobs as they are not injected into local industries.

These investments, according to Guan, are immediately withdrawn at the slightest hint of instability.

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Customs men who helped Lee sacked

By Leila B. Salaverria

CUSTOMS COMMISSIONER Napoleon Morales yesterday ordered the relief of all Bureau of Customs personnel involved in facilitating the release of a plastic resin shipment that suspected smuggler Samuel Lee allegedly ordered diverted from a customs bonded warehouse to a private corporation.

Morales said he directed Port of Manila Collector Horacio Suansing to determine who among the port's examiners and appraisers were involved in releasing the plastic resin shipment that was apparently misdeclared as packaging material.

"Once he determines who are responsible for the release, I asked collector Suansing to relieve them and give them 72 hours to explain why they should not be sanctioned," he said in a phone interview. "We will spare no one."

He added that he expected to learn the identities of the relieved personnel soon, most likely tomorrow.

The customs commissioner also said he ordered the relief of the personnel because they would be subjected to an investigation.

"I also want to follow due process," he added.

Samuel Lee released after posting P360,000 bail

From page A1

Benjamin de los Santos said last night.

De los Santos is the chief of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group-Criminal Investigation and Detection Division, which arrested Lee on Sunday at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport upon his return from Hong Kong.

Lee was arrested for allegedly ordering the diversion of a shipment of plastic resin from a customs bonded warehouse to a company in Valenzuela City.

The Department of Justice recommended earlier yesterday that Lee, who was brought to the department for inquest on Tuesday, be slapped with three counts of smuggling.

Lee was among the suspected smugglers named at a recent Senate hearing, along with Vicky Toh and Lucio Lao Co, who are purportedly close to the First Gentleman.

Lee is considered "untouchable and well-entrenched" in the Bureau of Customs, according to the police, quoting sources in the bureau's intelligence units.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said Lee was not "untouchable," assuring that there will be no whitewash in the conduct of preliminary investigation.

Fearing that Lee might flee, Gonzalez ordered the Bureau of Immigration to put the suspected smuggler under a hold-departure order.

A team composed of State Prosecutor Hazel Decena-Valdez and Prosecuting Attorney Olivia Torrevillas, which conducted an inquest on Lee and his alleged cohorts—Ronhina Alojado, Jocelyn Antos, Butch Go and Rolando Cipriano—recommended that the accused be slapped with three counts of smuggling.

Lee earlier waived his right to a preliminary investigation.

The inquest team, however, recommended that the charges against Lee's alleged cohorts be referred for preliminary investigation as they have been at-large during the inquest.

CAUGHT: Sammy Lee, allegedly the country's most notorious smuggler, is on his way to Camp Crame on Monday. Lee's 62 container vans allegedly filled with plastic resin were held by authorities. PDI PHOTO

Change of heart

In Quezon City, the Prosecutor's Office yesterday appeared to have had a change of heart and amended its earlier resolution recommending the release of Lee.

Instead of direct bribery, the Prosecutor's Office recommended the filing of the charge of corrupting a public official against Lee.

The prosecutor's recommendation to release Lee caused an uproar in the CIDG, which charged Lee with bribery.

The recommendation prompted Gonzalez to order the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office to explain its decision, which police officials find "highly arbitrary."

It was Assistant City Prosecutor Ma. Gracia Cadiz-Casaclang who recommended Lee's release because, according to her, there was "no valid case" for Lee's arrest.

CIDG operatives said the arrest was valid because it was made while the 41-year-old Lee was allegedly trying to hand over P300,000 to the head of the arresting team, Insp. Pedro Velasco, on Sunday.

Amended resolution

De los Santos said the amended resolution showed that there was a case against Lee for his bribe offer to a police officer.

"They reversed themselves. They recommended the filing of the corresponding information in court," De los Santos said.

"Wherefore it is respectfully recommended that a case for corruption of a public official be filed in court instead against the herein respondent. Bail is recommended at P16,000," said the new resolution signed by Casaclang.

Lee's camp immediately posted bail for the corruption charge. His lawyers also posted a surety bond for an estafa case he was facing in Manila. The bail for the estafa charge was set at P160,000.

The CIDG has charged Lee with violating the Tariff and Customs Code for allegedly diverting three container vans full of plastic resin from the Bureau of Customs.

"Through a dummy corporation, Liontext Enterprises Inc., managed by Ronhina Alohado, suspect Lee imported raw materials, high density polyethelene resins from Singapore and filed an import entry through misdeclaration (of the resins) as raw materials and grossly undervalued the shipments in three containers," a police report had said.

Missing documents

In her amended resolution, Casaclang answered the points raised by De los Santos when he protested against the recommendation by the prosecutor to release Lee.

Casaclang said two documents were missing when police investigators filed the bribery charge against Lee on March 5—the affidavit of arrest and the affidavit of complaint against Lee for violation of the country's laws on tariffs and customs, "which would prove that there is a case against (Lee) for which he offered the money in order to go 'scot free.'"

"It is mind boggling, if not totally incredible, that a person who was allegedly arrested and detained on the morning of March 5, 2006 could easily have gotten out of his detention cell on the afternoon of the same day and approached a police officer seated at his table and offer(ed) a yellow plastic bag containing P300,000," the assistant prosecutor said.

"With these in mind and not because she was influenced by anybody, the undersigned prosecutor deemed it necessary that the case be for further investigation so as to clarify these matters stated above," she said.

The police did not find "mind-boggling" Lee's ability to produce P300,000 while under detention.

He was not locked up in a cell but detained in a police office. His lawyers and family members had access to him, the police said.

The police, however, were glad that Casaclang had amended her first resolution.

"People commit mistakes and we are given opportunity to correct, and in the spirit of an orderly administration of justice, we always seek mutual cooperation with the other pillars of the judiciary," De los Santos said.

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Contract for Security Services of PRO IV-B
ITB# PRO4B-06-002

The **PHILHEALTH REGIONAL OFFICE IV-B (PRO IV-B)** through the corporate operating budget of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation 2006 intends to apply the sum of **two million seven hundred fifteen thousand one hundred pesos (P2,715,100.00)** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for Security Services. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.

The **PRO IV-B** now invites Bids from eligible bidders for Security Services. This contract shall take effect on **April 1, 2006** until **December 31, 2006**. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organization of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder of the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the PhilHealth Regional Office IV-B and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of **two thousand seven hundred pesos (P 2,700.00)**. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The PRO IV-B will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **March 14, 2006, 2:00 p.m.** at the 3rd floor, Conference Room, PhilHealth Regional Office IV-B.

Bids and Eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before **March 27, 2006, 11:00 a.m.** Late bids shall not be accepted. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in any of the following forms and amount.

Form of Security	Minimum Amount in % of ABC to be Bid
1. Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit.	One percent (1%)
2. Bank Guarantee	One and a half percent (1 1/2%)

Bid opening shall be on **March 27, 2006, 2:00 p.m.** at the 3rd Floor, Conference Room, PhilHealth Regional Office IV-B. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

The PRO IV-B reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

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(Sgd) CIRILO C. BALMACEDA
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI- March 2 & 9, 200

Singapore rewards 2 Filipinas with cash

From page A1

for 19 years for the family of Singaporean Loke Lai Kuen. She was cited "for looking after and caring for two sick members of the family while also attending to household work."

Garcia has been employed by the family of Mae Heng for six years. She has looked after Heng's young son who has a motor-planning speech disorder.

Garcia even took a sign language course "to better understand her ward and help out in his therapy," the DFA reported.

Some 150,000 women work as maids in Singapore, mainly from Indonesia, the Philippines and Sri Lanka. Filipino domestic helpers include well-schooled women—former professionals, teachers, health workers, office employees and college graduates—often considered to have an advantage over other Southeast Asian nationalities because of their fluency in English.

Gov't-sponsored

The government-sponsored awards were given on Feb. 23 on the occasion of Singapore's National Foreign Workers Day, DFA spokesperson Gilbert Asuque said, quoting a report from the Philippine Embassy in Singapore.

The Filipino winners were chosen from over 300 nominations received by the organizers. A total of 13 awards were handed out during the celebration, the DFA said.

Top Singapore employers

Among the runners-up for the "Employer of the Year" award was Tay Boon Sun, a Singaporean who has hired a Filipina, Encarnacion Montales, as maid in his household for the past 20 years.

Philippine Ambassador to Singapore Belen F. Anota congratulated Quiatchon and Garcia, saying "their winning only showed the Filipinos' commitment to their respective jobs."

In 1995, Singapore refused to heed the Philippine government's appeals to stay the execution of Contemplacion, sparking street protests in Manila and straining diplomatic ties between the two neighbors.

A Singaporean court convicted Contemplacion, 42, of killing another Filipino maid, Delia Maga, and her ward, a 4-year-old Singaporean boy—crimes that the condemned maid denied until her death.

Anti-Singapore sentiments were briefly revived in September last year when Singaporean authorities arrested and charged another Filipino maid, Guen Aquilar, 29, with the gruesome murder of another Filipino maid, Jane La Puebla, 26.

'Superman's' widow dies of lung cancer; 44

From page A1

around the world—her death seemed sudden. As recently as Jan. 12, she looked healthy and happy as she belted out Carole King's "Now and Forever" at a packed Madison Square Garden during a ceremony honoring hockey star Mark Messier, a friend.

"Unfortunately, that's what happens with this awful disease," said Maggie Goldberg of the Christopher Reeve Foundation, where Dana had succeeded her husband as chair. "You feel good, you're responding and then the downturn."

Dana died Monday night at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Medical Center in Manhattan, said foundation president Kathy Lewis.

Officials would not discuss Dana's treatment or say when she entered the hospital. But Lewis said she visited her there on Friday, when Dana was "tired but with her typical sense of humor and smile, always trying to make other people feel good, her characteristic personality."

Loving spirit

"The brightest light has gone out," said comedian Robin Williams. "We will forever celebrate her loving spirit."

Former President Bill Clinton and Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton described Dana as "a model of tenacity and grace."

"Despite the adversity that she faced, Dana bravely met these challenges and was always an exemplary devoted wife, mother and advocate," the Clintons said.

Christopher and Dana married in 1992. Life changed drastically for the young show business couple three years later when Christopher suffered near-total paralysis in a horse-riding accident and almost died.

In his autobiography, "Still Me," Christopher wrote that he suggested early on to his wife, "Maybe we should let me go." She responded, "I'll be with you for the long haul, no matter what. You're still you and I love you."

Those were "the words that saved my life," Christopher said.

Caregiving for 9 years

For Christopher's remaining nine years, Dana became her husband's constant companion and supporter during the ordeal of his rehabilitation, winning worldwide acclaim and admiration. With her husband, she became an activist in the search for a cure for spinal cord injuries.

"Something miraculous and wonderful happened amidst terrible tragedy, and a whole new dimension of life began to emerge," Dana wrote in a 1999 book, "Care Packages: Letters to Christopher Reeve from Strangers and Other Friends."

Return to acting

"What we had yet to discover were all the gifts that come out of sharing hardship, the hidden pleasures behind the pain," she said.

DANA REEVE: The hidden pleasures behind the pain discovered. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

After her husband's death, Dana said she planned to return to acting. She had appeared on Broadway, off-Broadway and regional stages and on the TV shows "Law & Order," "Oz," and "All My Children" and she'd had to give up a Broadway role when she was widowed.

"I am an actress and I do have to make a living," Dana said.

However, her mother died of complications from ovarian cancer and Dana's own diagnosis came the next summer, two days after the lung cancer death of ABC News anchor Peter Jennings, a smoker.

"I thought that after everything that she had gone through with Chris that she would have time to smell the flowers and be in the sun," said Sen. Diane Feinstein. "But apparently that was not meant to be."

From the start, Dana, a nonsmoker, expressed confidence she would beat lung cancer. And four months ago, wearing a long formal gown at a fundraising gala for the foundation, Dana provoked wolf whistles from Williams and said she was responding well to treatment.

"I'm beating the odds and defying every statistic the doctors can throw at me," Dana said. "My prognosis looks better all the time."

Human touch

At about the same time, Dana taped a PBS show, "The New Medicine," about how doctors are paying more attention to a patient's cultural values and lifestyle as part of treatment. In her introduction to the program, she said: "It has become clear to me that high-tech medicine, with all its wonders, often leaves out that all-important human touch."

PBS on Tuesday said that the show would be broadcast as scheduled on March 29.

Survivors include the Reeves' 13-year-old son, Will; two grown stepchildren, Matthew and Alexandra; her father, Charles Morosini; and two sisters.

Goldberg said Will was "in the loving care of family and friends" and that his mother had arranged for his future.

The foundation said no plans for Dana's funeral had been announced. AP

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Nearly 100 firms linked to Thaksin facing boycott

BANGKOK—THAI PROTESTERS THREATENED WEDNESDAY TO boycott nearly 100 companies and products linked to Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, racheting up the pressure for him to resign.

The boycott list includes several top international brands, such as Toyota, Heineken, Nescafé and Seven-Eleven convenience stores.

"We will see to it that Thai people don't drink Nescafé coffee or buy goods at Seven-Eleven convenience stores," said Parnthep Pu-urpongpan, a spokesperson for the anti-Thaksin coalition that has led weekly protests in Bangkok.

The list includes dozens of companies with links to Thaksin's business empire and to his party.

The boycott would begin Thursday if the Singapore investment firm Temasek completes its purchase of Shin Corp., the telecom giant founded by Thaksin, Parnthep said.

Thaksin's family sold its nearly 50-percent stake in Shin Corp. to Temasek in late January, making $1.9 billion in the tax-free deal. Public anger at the deal snowballed into weekly protests and plunged Thailand into political turmoil.

"A boycott is the general right of the Thai public to protest against Shin Corp.'s sale to Temasek," Parnthep said.

The People's Alliance for Democracy released a list of nearly 100 boycott targets, including Thailand's largest mobile phone operator, three international airlines and two banks.

Among Shin Corp.'s companies are Thailand's biggest mobile phone operator Advance Info Service (AIS), discount carrier Air Asia, Internet provider CS Loz Info and iTV television station.

Temasek's varied interests include banks DBS, Thai Danu Bank and UOB, the Hard Rock Café franchise, Tiger Beer and Heineken, as well as Singapore and Cathay Pacific airlines.

Billionaire Thaksin counts many top businessmen among his party's members and supporters, including people with ties to Toyota, Nescafé and Seven-Eleven—putting all those firms on the protesters' list as well.

The latest threat from the protesters came as they ready for their next major rally Monday night, to be followed early Tuesday by a march on Government House during Thaksin's Cabinet meeting.

The protesters got a major boost this week when the nation's biggest union vowed to mobilize 100,000 workers to join them.

Unions representing Thailand's 42 state enterprises are set to meet Thursday on whether to join the protest, but divisions have begun to emerge among the workers.

A delegation of railway workers delivered a statement to Thaksin's office, saying they wanted to remain neutral in the political crisis.

"The union members want to explain that we are not all involved with those calling for a strike and joining the protest to oust the government," the statement said.

Adding to the pressure on Thaksin, the army chief warned Wednesday that the ongoing political upheaval could unsettle revered King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

"The king may be upset because he knows that we are having these problems in the country," Gen. Sonthi Boonyaratglin said. *AFP*

India blasts kill 21, injure 62

LUCKNOW, INDIA—Three separate bomb blasts ripped through the holy Hindu city of Varanasi in India on Tuesday, killing at least 21 people and wounding 62 at a crowded temple and a railway station.

Police also found two other bombs near the city's main cremation site on the banks of the Ganges River, officials said. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attacks.

The authorities put states across India on high alert, fearing the attacks in Hinduism's holiest city could spark communal violence.

The first blast tore into the Hanuman Temple temple—one of the oldest as well as one of the most beloved shrines in the ancient city—when it was packed with faithful carrying out their weekly Tuesday night worship.

Witnesses said the powerful explosion set off a panicked crush as people scrambled for safety.

"The blast was so powerful that it could be heard across the town, and we have moved five or six badly-burned dead," an eyewitness said.

"Everyone was running. There were corpses lying around," another witness told Aaj Tak news channel. "There was almost a stampede." Witnesses said a marriage ceremony was taking place at the temple when the blast occurred. They said several students due to appear for exams were also at the temple to offer prayers.

Rescue workers struggled in Varanasi's narrow lanes to cart out the victims, most of whom had injuries on their legs and on the lower parts of their bodies, people on the scene said.

Within 10 minutes, two more bombs went off in the city's main railway station, said Kamlesh Pathak, the city's deputy administrator. *AFP*

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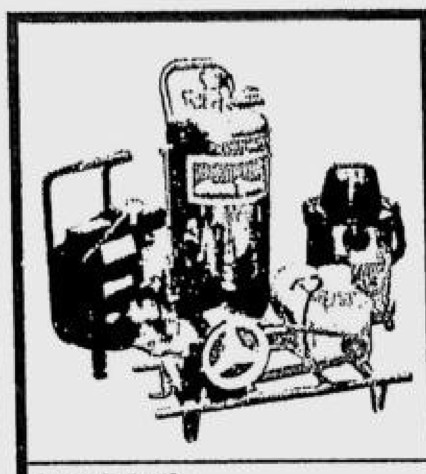

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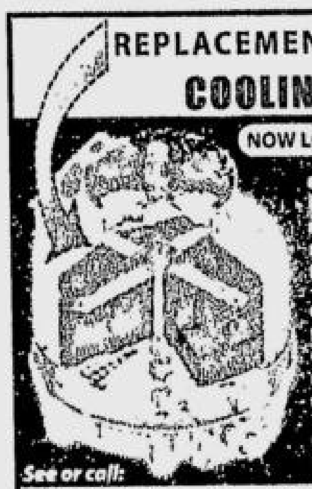

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Energy Complex, Merritt Road
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Tel. No. 893-1320, Local 5285
PNOC

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND BID

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation is inviting all interested suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

Various Sizes of Carbon Steel Seamless Pipes Under FGT 51966
Approved budget: PHP 2,145,000.00

Eligibility forms and bidding documents shall be available for issuance at the above address c/o Roderick R. Cabantog starting **March 2, 2006**, from 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P400.00 per document.

For purposes of clarifying certain matters, a pre-bidding conference shall be held on **March 10, 2006, 2:00 p.m.** at the above address.

Applications for eligibility and sealed bids shall be submitted to and registered with the PNOC-EDC Procurement and Materials Management Division, at the above address and thereafter dropped in the padlocked bid box thereat not later than **2:00 p.m.** (Procurement Department Office Wall Clock time) on **March 24, 2006**. Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. Late bids shall not be accepted.

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to the bidding terms and conditions, as required, and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. Source of funding is from Internal Cash Generation of PNOC-EDC. All bids should be within the Approved Budget for the Contract in order to qualify.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground(s) for PNOC-EDC's action.

Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee II

(PDI—March 2 & 9, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT
Northern Mindanao
Cagayan de Oro City
Tel No (088) 858-7123. 233-23-06, 350-4325; 726476

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Center for Health Development – Northern Mindanao, Carmen, Cagayan de Oro City, is inviting contractors and security services operators to apply for eligibility and to bid for security services for calendar year 2006 with Approved Budget Cost of P876,000.00 sourced out of the GOP appropriations for this Office.

Timetable of bidding process are as follows.

Bidding Process	Schedule
Registration of interested contractors	Starts March 9, 2006
Pre-Bidding Conference	March 20, 2006 2:00 PM, DOH-CHD Conference Room
Period of contractors eligibility check	March 10-24, 2006
Opening of Bids	March 27, 2006 2:00 PM, DOH-CHD Conference Room

Bid forms will be made available to suppliers/contractors who passed the eligibility check at a non-refundable cost of P500 00

The Director IV of the DOH-CHD Northern Mindanao, Carmen, Cagayan de Oro City, reserves the right to waive any defect or informality in the offers of bids, and rejects any or all bid proposals that may be deemed disadvantageous to the government.

For further information, please inquire from the Bids and Awards Committee or its Secretariat, or call telephone no. 858-7123; 233-2306; 350-4325; or visit our website at www.chd10 doh.gov.ph or email us at chd_cdo@yahoo.com

(Sgd.) JULITO C. SABORNIDO, JR., MD, MPH
Director IV

(PDI—March 9 & 16, 2006)

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Palestine PM not immune from assassination – Israel

JERUSALEM—ISRAELI DEFENSE MINISTER Shaul Mofaz warned Tuesday that Hamas' Palestinian prime minister-designate Ismail Haniya would not be immune from assassination if the radical Islamists carried out attacks.

"From the moment when Hamas continues on the path of terrorism, nobody in the movement will benefit from immunity," Mofaz said when asked on army radio about the possibility of Haniya being subject to a targeted killing operation.

Haniya has been tasked by Palestinian leader Mahmud Abbas to form a government following Hamas' massive victory in a Jan. 25 general election.

Hamas has carried out dozens of anti-Israeli suicide attacks during the course of a five-year Palestinian uprising although none in the past 12 months.

Hamas reacted to Mofaz's comments by accusing Israel of conducting "state terrorism." "Hamas does not fear these threats and blackmail. We are committed to the defense of our rights and our people whatever the price," spokesperson Sami Abu Zuhri told AFP.

"These comments by the Israeli defense minister are an illustration of state terrorism."

Two Hamas leaders, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin and Abdelaziz al-Rantissi, were killed in Israeli air strikes two years ago. Haniya was also present with Yassin during an earlier assassination attempt in September 2003.

More recently, Israel has targeted leaders of the extremist Islamic Jihad movement which has continued to carry out attacks, including seven suicide bombings in the past year.

Two members of Jihad died in an air strike on Gaza City on Monday but three children were also killed in the attack, which prompted stinging international criticism from the United Nations.

Mofaz vowed that the so-called targeted killing operations would continue. "This policy is just and it will be pursued," he said, adding that the strikes were carried out with "surgical precision."

Questioned specifically about the deaths of an eight-year-old and two 15-year-old boys in Monday's strike, Mofaz said he was "sorry when civilians are hit." "But if you weigh the advantages and disadvantages (of targeted killings), you can see that when we acted against Hamas, the situation changed. For this to work with Jihad, we need a little bit of patience," he added.

The commander of Israel's air force, Eliezer Shkedy, said his forces made every effort not to hurt civilians but that in war it was not always possible.

"We are making superhuman efforts not to hurt those who are not involved in terrorism but we do not succeed every time. It's a war," he told army radio.

The UN Middle East peace envoy, Alvaro de Soto, stressed his opposition to what he called "extra-judicial killings, for reasons which include the danger they pose to innocent bystanders.

"While recognizing Israel's right to defend itself, particularly from rocket attacks, I call on the Israeli military authorities to desist from extra-judicial killings and show maximum restraint at this delicate time." Mofaz's comments about Haniya come amid the countdown to an Israeli general election on March 28, with the ruling Kadima party keen to deflect any suggestion they are "soft on terrorism."

Benjamin Netanyahu, leader of the right-wing opposition Likud party, has claimed Hamas's victory was a direct result of the government's decision to pull troops and settlers out of the Islamists' Gaza Strip stronghold last year. *AFP*

New high-tech gizmos showcased at world fair

BERLIN—THE WORLD'S BIGgest high-tech fair opens this week, showcasing the latest in robotics, computers and consumer electronics to make the hearts of gadget fans beat faster.

The CeBIT, running March 9-15 in the northern German city of Hanover, will host more than 6,200 exhibitors from 71 countries and some 474,000 visitors eager to take in new advances in digital and information technology.

Among the most hotly awaited trends are new applications for Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology, which is slated to wipe the traditional bar code off the map.

Developers see hundreds of uses for the tiny antennae planted in chips the size of a postage stamp.

Shoppers in the future will be able to pull their carts up to the supermarket counter and with one "beep!" have all the products registered and billed in an instant.

Bookworms will be able to run through a similar scanner and, with a chip in each volume, skip long check-out lines at the library.

And patients will eventually be able to have RFID chips implanted in their bodies, allowing any attending doctor to call up his or her personal health history at the touch of a button.

Germany's renowned Frauenhofer Institute and the neurology clinic at Berlin's Charite hospital are to unveil a "mental typewriter" that will allow people incapacitated by injury or disease to communicate.

Using 128 electrodes fastened to the cranium, the invention literally reads minds as the patient uses his thoughts to type out messages.

And the event would not be complete without a few rather gimmicky gee-whiz inventions including "intelligent" vacuum cleaners and lawn mowers that take care of household chores and return themselves to the charging station.

"The CeBIT is focusing on RFID this year because in the future, all processing, for example in the field of logistics, will be changed beyond recognition," said Ernst Raue of the event's organizing team. *AFP*

US lawmaker to block Dubai ports deal

WASHINGTON—DEFYING PRESIDENT George W. Bush, Republicans in the House of Representatives on Tuesday moved to block plans by a state-owned Arab company to manage six US ports by attaching an amendment to must-pass spending legislation for the Iraq war and hurricane relief.

House Republican leaders backed a plan by Appropriations Committee Chair Jerry Lewis to push an amendment aimed at stopping the Dubai ports deal the administration had approved, said Ron Bonjean, spokesperson for House Speaker Dennis Hastert, an Illinois Republican.

"We do not believe the US should allow a state-owned company to run American ports," Bonjean said. Lewis told reporters the port security legislation was still being drafted in the House and work remains with the Senate. But he added, "It is my intention to lay the foundation to block the deal." The House Appropriations Committee is expected to debate the ports amendment on Wednesday.

Lewis, a California Republican, said his amendment to the emergency spending bill for the Iraq war and hurricane rebuilding would not mandate that only American citizens be involved in running US ports. He said "the language is designed to deal specifically with the concerns that flow around the United Emirates question." But he also said the measure "could be interpreted to be broader than just a single country."

Bush has threatened to veto legislation that attempts to block the $6.85 billion deal under which Dubai Ports World took over the global assets of Britain-based P&O which would give the state-owned Arab company control over managing some facilities at six major US ports. *Reuters*

Republic of the Philippines
ZAMBOANGA CITY SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY
San Ramon, Zamboanga City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

RE-BIDDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF ONE (1) LOT 69 KV TRANSMISSION LINE

The Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority (ZCSEZA) requires the construction of a 69 KV sub-transmission line from structure number 21 of PERMEX transmission line in Ayala to ZAMBOECOZONE First Industrial Park, with a total distance of 4.4 circuit kilometer, in a 65-footer pre-stress concrete poles in a vertical construction standard utilizing silicon post insulator in a 336.4 ACSR conductor. Likewise, installation of a circuit breaker and disconnect switches at TRANSCO Tulungatung tapping point, to include line rehabilitation of PERMEX Line Structure # 11 to Structure 21.

1 The Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority (ZCSEZA), through the Corporate Operating Budget 2005 intends to apply the sum of **FIFTEEN MILLION SIXTY-ONE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED TWENTY-TWO & 64/100 PESOS ONLY (15,061,622.64)** being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for **"Re-bidding for the Construction of One (1) Lot 69 KV Transmission Line"**. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

2. The Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority (ZCSEZA) now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for the **"Re-bidding for the Construction of One (1) Lot 69 KV Transmission Line"**. Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. Interested Bidders must submit their LOIs and secure the Eligibility Documents upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of Two Hundred Pesos (P200.00) on **March 15-20, 2006 at the BAC Secretariat, 2nd Floor, ZAMBOECOZONE Administration Building.** Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents **on March 28, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. at the Audio Visual Room, 3rd Floor, ZAMBOECOZONE Administration Building, San Ramon, Zamboanga City.** Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents

3 Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, only Bids from eligible Bidders will be opened. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 a contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.

4 Interested Bidders shall submit their accomplished Eligibility Documents to the **BAC Secretariat, 2nd Floor, ZAMBOECOZONE Administration Building on or before March 28, 2006 at 10:00 a.m.**

5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of **Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P2,500.00)**. The Biding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative on **March 28 - April 19, 2006.**

6. The Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority (ZCSEZA) will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on **April 7, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. at the Audio Visual Room, 3rd Floor, ZAMBOECOZONE Administration Building, San Ramon, Zamboanga City.**

7 Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below on or before **April 20, 2006 at 10:00 a.m.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of **Cash, Certified Check, Cashier's Check, Manager's Check and in an amount of One Hundred Fifty Thousand Six Hundred Sixteen Pesos & 23/100 Only (P150,616.23), GSIS Surety Bond in the amount of Three Hundred Seventy-six Thousand Five Hundred Forty Pesos & 57/100 (P376,540.57)** or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be on **April 20, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. at the Audio Visual Room, 3rd Floor, ZAMBOECOZONE Administration Building, San Ramon, Zamboanga City.** Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the address below on **April 20, 2006 at 10:00 a.m.**

8. Completion of the Works is required by One Hundred Twenty (120) Calendar Days.

9. The Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority (ZCSEZA) reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders

(Sgd.) **GEORGINA PANTALEON-YU**
Chairman and Administrator
Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone Authority
Administration Building, San Ramon, Zamboanga City
(062) 992-0409, (062) 993-0200
E-mail: Ecozone_bac@yahoo.com

(PDI - March 2 & 9, 2006)

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Land Bank of the Philippines invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the projects as stated below:

ITB No.		Item / Description	Approved Budget	Source of Funds
2006-020	50 units Automated Teller Machines PLUS: Four (4) Year Maintenance Package		P 35,000,000.00 11,550,000.00 P 46,550,000.00	LBP Funds
2006-046	1,000 bdls.	Jacket for Savings Passbook with Logo, 5-5/8" x 4-1/8"	P 214,500.00	
	9,000 bdls.	Jacket for Savings Signature Card, 5" x 7-1/2"	1,845,000.00	
	1,000 pcs.	Checkbook Jacket, 8-6/8" x 7"	13,500.00	
	3,000 bdls.	Plastic Jacket for ATM Card (Green), 148mm x 103mm	855,000.00 P 2,928,000.00	LBP Funds
2006-053	22 units Multimedia Projector		P 2,164,800.00	LBP Funds

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/ Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

Bidding for the above requirements is scheduled on April 5, 2006 at 1:00 PM and pertinent Bid Documents may be obtained from the General Services Department, 25th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza, M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila, **upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P5,000.00 (ITB No. 2006-020) and P1,000.00 (ITB Nos. 2006-046 and 2006-053).**

Interested suppliers are requested to attend the Pre-Bid Conference scheduled on **March 21, 2006 (ITB No. 2006-020) and March 23, 2006 (ITB Nos. 2006-046 and 2006-053)** at the 25th Floor, Conference Room, LANDBANK Plaza, Malate, Manila.

All particulars relative to **Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract** shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of **RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).**

LANDBANK reserves the right to reject any or all bids, declare the bidding a failure or waive any required formality therein and make an award to the bidder whose bid is the most advantageous to the Bank.

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

(PDI—March 9 & 16, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION
REGION XIII (CARAGA)
Bancasi, Butuan City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

CONSTRUCTION OF DIVERSION WORKS OF MARIHATAG-MARARAG COMMUNAL IRRIGATION SYSTEM

Marihatag, Surigao del Sur
Loan [Credit] No. PH-P203

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation toward the cost of Marihatag-Mararag Communal Irrigation System, Marihatag, Surigao del Sur, and it intends to apply part of the whole proceeds of this loan, together with the GOP counterpart funds, the payments under the contract for the construction of diversion works under Local Minor Contract No. RO-SDS-LMC-001.

The National Irrigation Administration-Region XIII (Caraga) now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the Construction of an Ogee-Type Diversion Works. Completion of the works is required within 250 Calendar Days (250 CD).

Bidding will be conducted in accordance with relevant procedures for open competitive bidding as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184 otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," to the extent it is consistent with the Japan Bank for International Cooperation procurement procedures and is open to all Bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the "Guidelines for Procurement under JBIC Loans."

Interested Bidders shall secure the Eligibility Documents from the BAC Secretariat at the NIA-Region XIII (Caraga), Bancasi, Butuan City, starting **March 18, 2006 to April 7, 2006.** They shall submit the accomplished Eligibility Documents on or before **5:00 P.M. on April 18, 2006.**

Eligible Bidders may obtain further information from NIA-Region XIII (Caraga) and inspect the Bidding Documents from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Monday to Friday starting **April 9, 2006.**

A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be purchased by eligible Bidders upon the submission of a written application and payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos only (P5,000.00). The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his duly authorized representative from **April 9, 2006 to May 7, 2006**

The NIA-Region XIII (Caraga) will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on **April 26, 2006, 1:00 P.M.** at the NIA-Regional Office, Bancasi, Butuan City

Eligible Bidders must submit their Bid on or before **May 8, 2006, 2:00 P.M.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of cashier's/manager's check, in the amount of One Hundred Thirty Five Thousand Thirty Three Pesos and 69/100 (P135,033.69). Bid Opening shall be on **May 8, 2006, 2:00 P.M.** at NIA-Regional Office, Bancasi, Butuan City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend.

The National Irrigation Administration reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) **RAFAEL A. ALAS, JR.**
BAC Chairman

Approved:

(Sgd.) **DEMOCRATICO P. GRANA, JR., CESO V**
Regional Manager

(PDI-March 9 & 16, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
City Government of Zamboanga
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
City Hall, Zamboanga City
Tel. No. (062) 992-7763

Solicitation No. Goods 06-0303-024

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Drugs and Medicines
(Name of Project)
Amoxicillin 500 mgs., Clotrimazole Vaginal Tabs, etc.
(Brief Description of GOODS)

1 The **City Government of Zamboanga**, through the **General Fund 2006** intend to apply the sum of **THREE MILLION FIVE HUNDRED FORTY THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED SIXTY PESOS (P3,540,760.00) ONLY** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for **Drugs and Medicines (PR No. 100-06-02-0222)**. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

2 The **City Government of Zamboanga** now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for **Amoxicillin 500 mgs., Clotrimazole vaginal tabs, etc.** Delivery of the GOODS is required for **Ten (10) working days**. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

3 Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the law or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from **City Government of Zamboanga-Procurement, Acquisition & Award Division** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from **8:00 am to 5:00 pm from March 06 to 22, 2006.**

5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of **P1,200.00**. The method of payment will be **Cash payable to the City Treasurers Office**. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative

6. The City Government of Zamboanga will hold a *Pre-Bid Conference* open to all interested parties on **March 08, 2006; 10:00 AM at the City Engineers Conference Room.**

7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before **10:00 AM, March 22, 2006**. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the **form of Check, Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Manager's Check** payable to the City Treasurer, Bank Draft or Irrevocable Letter of Credit and in the amount of **P35,407.60 or Bank Guarantee** in the amount of **P53,111.40 or Surety Bond** in the amount of **P88,519.00** or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted

8 Bid opening shall be on **March 22, 2006 at 10:00 AM in the City Engineers Conference Room, City Hall, Z.C.** Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

9 **To be delivered in the Office of the City General Services Intended for the Office of the City Health.**

10 The City Government of Zamboanga reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Procurement, Acquisition & Awards Division
Milagros W.S. Saavedra
City Hall, N.S. Valderosa St., Z.C.
Tel. Fax 992-7763 or 991-0862

(Sgd.) **MARIO D. ARRIOLA (DVM)**
BAC Chairman

(PDI-March 9 & 16, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
CEBU PORT AUTHORITY
CIP Complex, Serging Osmeña Boulevard, North Reclamation Area, Cebu City
E-mail: cpa@cpa.gov.ph
Telephone: 232-1461 to 63; 231-6856 to 57
Fax No. 231-6848

AN INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

(AMENDED)

The Cebu Port Authority (CPA), North Reclamation Area, Cebu City through its Bids and Award Committee (BAC) invites all interested consultants to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **Engagement of Financial Advisor (FA) for the Corporatization and Privatization Plan of the Cebu Port Authority**

The Approved Budget for the Contract ("ABC") is THREE MILLION (P3M), to be paid by the CPA, plus 0.75% of the total sales proceeds from the successful privatization

PHASE	DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES	FEES
I. Valuation	Preparation of Valuation and appraisal report, information memorandum and privatization plan	Not to exceed Three Million Pesos (P3M)
II. Implementation	Implementation of the privatization plan, as approved by the Privatization Council	Not to exceed 0.75% of the sales proceeds (SUCCESS FEE).

Interested FAs must submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) through the BAC Secretariat on or before March 23, 2006. The eligibility requirements may be obtained from the BAC Secretariat starting March 23, 2006 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00)

Eligibility and Short Listing Requirements/Documents shall be submitted in a sealed envelope to the BAC Secretariat not later than 2:00 P.M. of March 31, 2006. Sealed envelopes submitted shall be immediately opened after the deadline. The eligibility of registered bidders shall be evaluated using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria based on the indicated eligibility requirements.

The BAC shall draw up the short list of Financial Advisors (FAs) from those who have submitted LOIs and have determined as eligible both in accordance with the provision of Republic Act No. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A ("IRR-A"). The short list of prospective bidders shall not exceed five (5) FAs. The criteria and rating system for short listing are:

a. 30% - General experience of the FA, considering both the overall experience of the firm and the individual experience of the principal and key staff, including relevant experience of the principal and the key staff from previous employment;
b. 30% - Privatization experience of the FA;
c. 20% - Qualification of personnel who may be assigned to the project;
d. 20% - Dealings of the FA with the Philippine government

The passing rate to be eligible is 70%. Based on such evaluation, the BAC Secretariat will issue the list of short-listed consultants on April 07, 2006

In accordance with the IRR-A of RA 9184, bidding for the hiring of an FA will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures. Only bids from short listed FA's will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in the Eligibility Documents to be obtained from the CPA. The contract will only be awarded to the highest Rated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post qualification.

The CPA-BAC shall evaluate bids using **Quality-Cost Based Evaluation** procedure. The criteria and rating system for the evaluation of bids shall be provided in the Instructions to Bidders to be obtained from the CPA

The bid documents shall be made available to all eligible and short listed FAs by the BAC Secretariat starting April 18, 2006

The Pre-bid Conference for all eligible and short listed FAs shall be held at 3:00 P.M. on April 25, 2006 at the Conference Room, Cebu Port Authority

All bids should be submitted to the BAC Secretariat on or before 3:00 P.M. on **May 10, 2006** at the Conference Room, Cebu Port Authority. All bids submitted shall be opened in public view immediately after the lapse of the deadline

All particulars relative to Eligibility Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR)

CPA assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

CPA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality/defect therein, and to accept such bid as may be deemed most advantageous to the government

For inquiries, please contact the BAC Secretariat at (63) (32) 412-5027 or (63) (32) 231-6858

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
CEBU PORT AUTHORITY
CIP Complex, Serging Osmeña Boulevard
North Reclamation Area, 6000 Cebu City

(Sgd.) **MARIO G. TAN**
BAC Chairman

Noted by:

(Sgd.) **MARIANO C.J. MARTINEZ**
General Manager

*AMENDING INVITATION TO BID PUBLISHED LAST MARCH 02, 2006

(PDI March 9 & 16, 2006)

SAND PROTEST
A Tibetan monk from India works on a mandala of colored sands in the Prague Museum, March 7. The monks will throw this mandala into the Vltava River today to support the Free Tibet movement. AFP

US fears sectarian civil war in Iraq

BAGHDAD—THE UNITED STATES CONCEDED on Tuesday that Iraq could yet descend into sectarian civil war as US diplomats strove to break a deadlock among Iraqi political leaders that threatens further delay in opening a parliament.

"We have opened the Pandora's box," US ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad said, referring to the US-led invasion of Iraq.

"The question is, what is the way forward?" he asked, speaking two weeks after the bombing of a major Shiite Muslim shrine in Samarra sparked days of bloodshed that killed hundreds.

"If another incident (occurs), Iraq is really vulnerable," the envoy, who is at the heart of talks to forge a coalition of Shiites, Sunnis and Kurds, told the Los Angeles Times. "The way forward... is an effort to build bridges across communities."

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, an architect of the 2003 invasion, said: "There's always been a potential for a civil war." He blamed the media for "exaggerating" Iraq's problems.

"It was held together through force and viciousness," he said of the minority Sunni-dominated rule of Saddam Hussein.

President George W. Bush says an inclusive Iraqi government can bring stability and, along with the formation of Iraq's new armed forces, can allow him to start withdrawing US troops.

The recent violence has jeopardized that plan.

A few days before US military commanders are expected to put recommendations to Bush for future troop levels, Khalilzad warned that pulling out too soon would risk a regional conflict that would make his native Afghanistan "look like child's play."

The assassination of the top Iraqi general in Baghdad on Monday by a sniper who apparently knew exactly which car door he would open in a 14-vehicle convoy prompted an investigation.

Iraqi generals said it proved the US-trained army was infiltrated by militants who could turn on fellow soldiers in the event of a conflict with sectarian and ethnic militias.

Efforts to forge a grand coalition following an election in December that Washington hailed as a triumph of democracy have stumbled over Sunni and Kurdish refusal to accept that Shiite Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari should stay on.

His critics say he's failed to bring security or prosperity during the year in which he has served as interim premier.

Jaafari, as ever, appeared untroubled on Tuesday. The soft-spoken Islamist doctor told an hour-long media briefing that touched only briefly on Iraq's political crisis that the issue was being discussed in a "civilized and democratic way."

Angered by the opposition but divided over its response, the various parties in the Alliance asked President Jalal Talabani for a few days delay in Sunday's planned opening of parliament.

But senior officials, including the outgoing speaker, said that was unlikely because March 12 is a constitutional deadline.

Sunday's session, however, may conduct essentially no business—not even the election of a new speaker demanded by the law. *Reuters*

UN employees protest Annan's overhaul plan

UNITED NATIONS—UN SECRETARY GENeral Kofi Annan outlined on Tuesday a radical overhaul of UN procedures, recruitment and training, prompting protests by staff on proposed outsourcing from New York headquarters.

In a long-awaited report on management reform, Annan sought more financial oversight, simplified hiring and reporting procedures, staff buyouts and a modern information system. The cost is estimated at $500 million.

Annan said the shake-up was necessary because the United Nations had to cope with 80,000 peacekeepers and civilian staff in the field and its "regulations and rules do not respond to current needs." His report is a direct result of scandals in the oil-for-food program in Iraq and fraud in awarding contracts.

'Just as this building, after 56 years of ad hoc repair and maintenance, now needs to be fully refurbished from top to bottom, so our organization, after decades of piecemeal reform, now needs a thorough strategic refit," Annan told the 191-member General Assembly in introducing the 33-page report.

The exercise, demanded by world leaders at a UN summit in September, would cost about $510 million: $280 million for improving staff conditions in the field; $120 million for information technology; $10 million for training and a possible $100 million for buyouts.

In turn, UN officials believe they could save nearly as much through streamlining contract procurement and farming out projects, but gave few details.

While UN diplomats were cautious in their first response, UN staff met in a raucous session with Annan asking for accountability for previous failed reforms.

Rosemary Waters, the American head of UN staff committee, said 700 employees would campaign "to halt the constant effort of the management to erode the rights and benefits of staff" and management's attempts to eradicate jobs. *Reuters*

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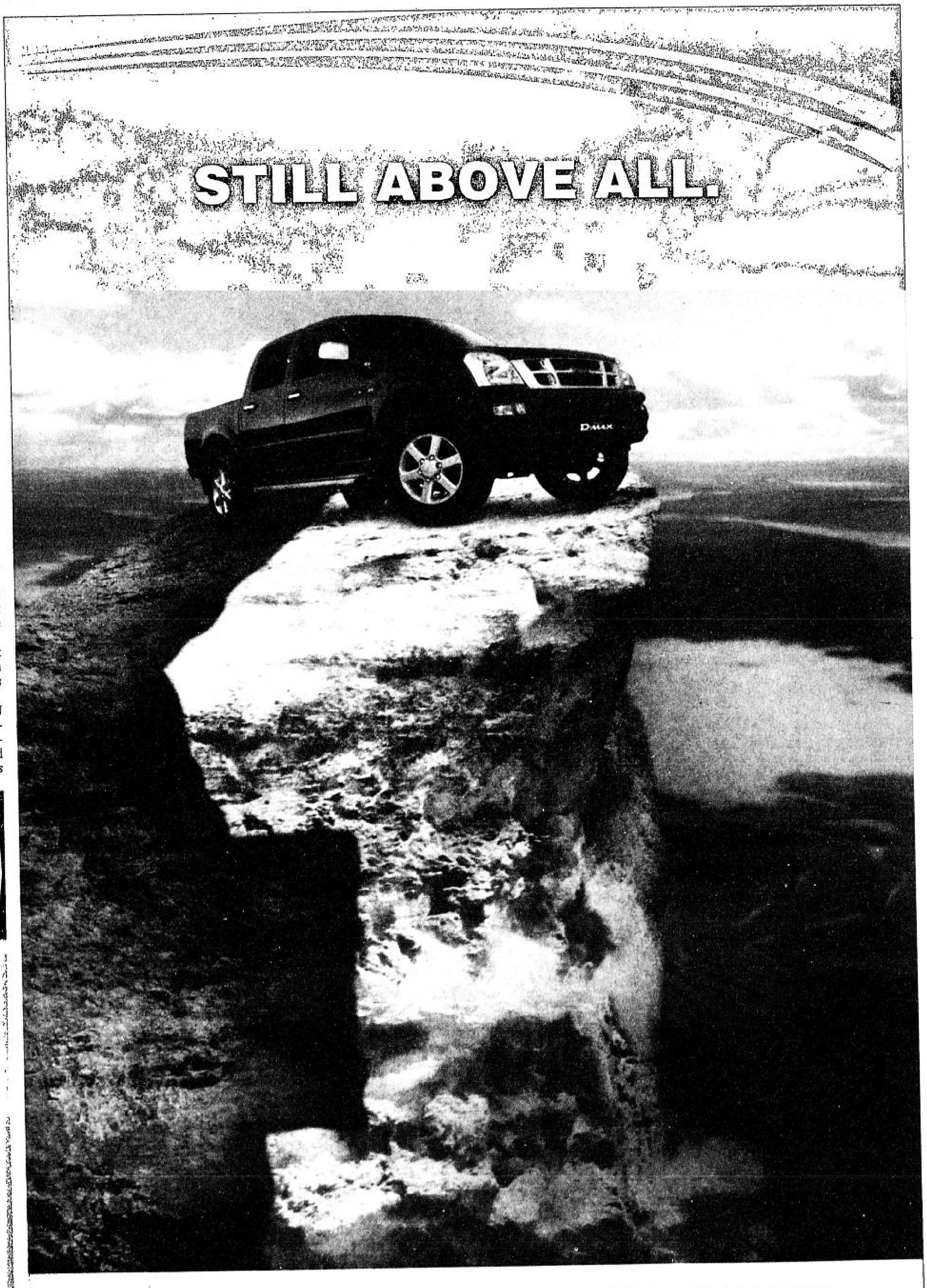

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OPINION

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Dialogue

EDITORIAL

MALACAÑANG SAYS PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo is open to holding a dialogue with members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, including "disgruntled soldiers." The dialogue should "finally clear up the issues that have been muddled by destabilizers and coup plotters and infuse greater unity and professionalism in our soldiery," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said. "It is important to know the underlying causes and reasons that drive our soldiers to meddle in politics."

With restiveness continuing to simmer in the Armed Forces and some members of elite fighting units like the Scout Rangers and the Marines allegedly even plotting to withdraw their support from her, few things could be more urgent and welcome than a dialogue between the commander in chief and the men at arms. A wide-ranging and candid exchange should give the national leadership a good idea of what is making our soldiers uneasy about their own situation and that of the whole nation, and put it in a better position to address their concerns.

The problem is that probing deep into the sources of the soldiers' discontent may not be what the administration has in mind. On one hand, Bunye talks as if anything and everything would be on the table. "The dialogue agenda is open for all relevant and vital issues affecting the Armed Forces," he has said. But on the other hand, he won't say if the President would agree to discuss the allegations of cheating in the 2004 presidential election and the partisan activities of some generals during the polls. He said the administration was not rejecting "any specific issues at this point," but added, "We don't want the forum to be used for grandstanding or espousing their causes." Earlier he had promised: "All voices within the chain of command will be heard, but the discussion must not be used for propaganda."

The key words here are obviously "grandstanding" and "propaganda." And in the administration's political dictionary, those words mean anything related to the charges that Ms Arroyo had rigged or tried to rig the election, as well as to allegations of graft and corruption in high places. Those are the words the President and her allies use when they dismiss and denounce demands by the opposition and other critics for an explanation of what her taped conversations with then Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano were about. That is how they call every attempt of the Senate to get to the bottom of scandals linking key administration officials, including the President, and members of her family—like the alleged payoffs from *jueteng* and the P728-million fertilizer scam.

Skirting these issues during her dialogue with the soldiers will not bring the President closer to salving the hurt of the soldiers and healing the division in the Armed Forces. On the few occasions disgruntled military officers have spoken in public, they have demanded an end to corruption and the politicization of the Armed Forces. They have also asked for "clean elections" and pleaded that they be left alone to carry out their duties as professional soldiers.

Unless the President decides to meet these issues head-on, the dialogue will be a pointless exercise. She might as well do a monologue and unveil some new package of benefits for the soldiers, and pray it will work better than Band-aid to bind their wounds.

But frank and honest explanations for what transpired in the elections may be the last thing soldiers can expect from their commander in chief. There is no reason to believe she would tell the soldiers what she has consistently refused to explain in full to the Filipino people.

Closing Guantanamo

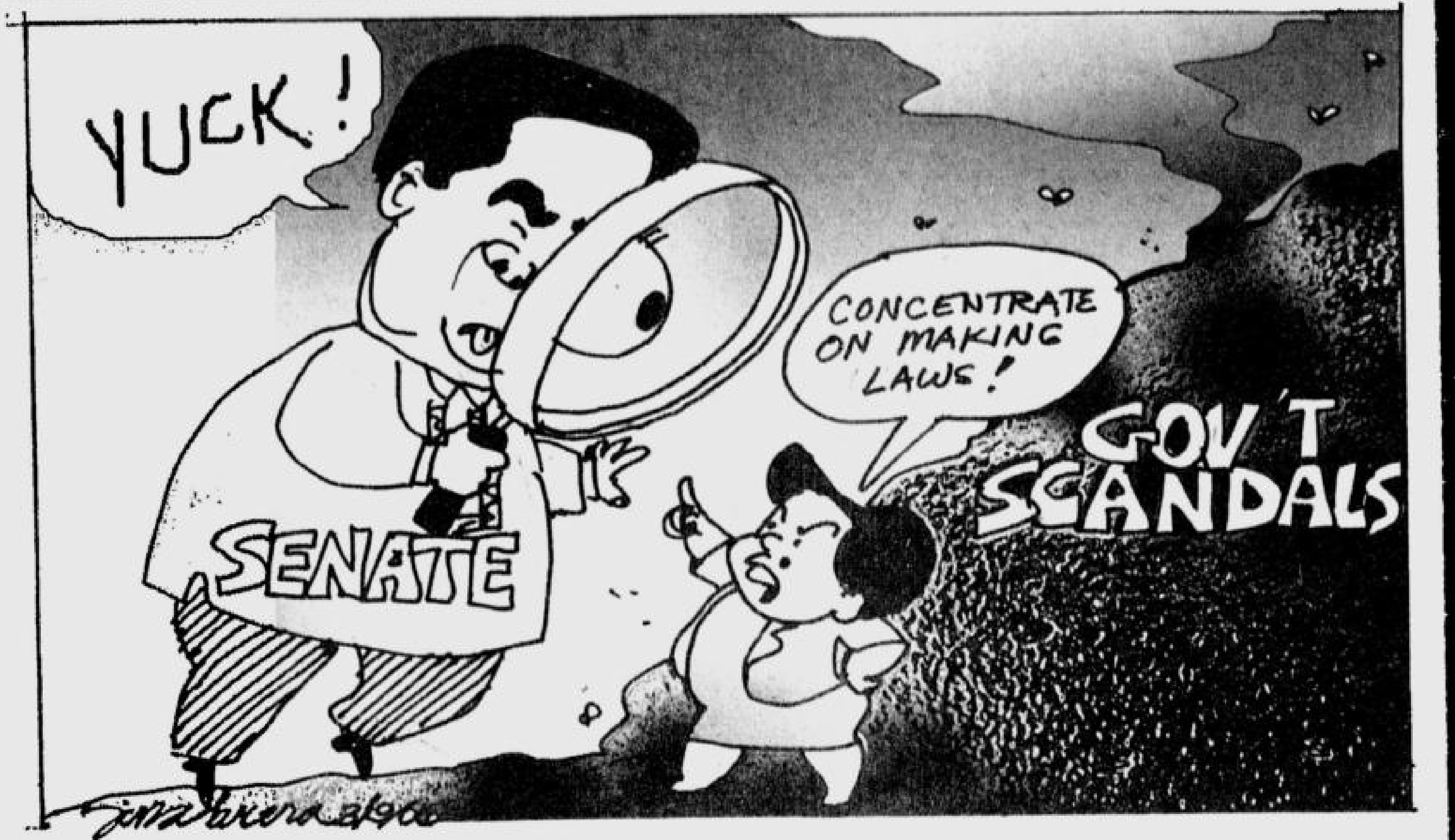
FOREIGN COMMENT

MORE THAN FOUR YEARS AFTER THE AMERICAN DETENtion camp at Guantanamo Bay opened, the range of voices calling for it to close is widening. Overseas, it runs from the Democrat former US President Jimmy Carter, through UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and the International Committee of the Red Cross, to the conservative Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi.

Tony Blair's reticence is understandable, particularly given the importance he places on the transatlantic alliance. But the case for voicing a stronger opposition is becoming overwhelming.

It is difficult to see how the harm done to America's image, and the outrage inspired throughout the Muslim world, could have been outweighed by any harvest of intelligence. Guantanamo should close and our Prime Minister should stand behind such a call.

The Observer (London)


YUCK!
SENATE
CONCENTRATE ON MAKING LAWS!
GOV'T SCANDALS

Faceless news sources

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMmission's Jorge Sarmiento burned the lines to deny that the NTC had clamped new guidelines on broadcast stations. His office, the gentleman said, merely recalled that the NTC had adopted the 1985 Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster's Code of Ethics.

Drafted by KBP members, the 21-year-old guidelines stipulate: "A station may not broadcast news to which it cannot attribute a source." The NTC's latest memo only underscored existing rules on "news from 'anonymous' sources." These are relevant "under present conditions," it stated.

The clarification is welcome. In our order of things, a President or general may not substitute for the editor of the smallest community paper or station. The Bill of Rights' curb against abridging liberty of expression is absolute. In a democracy, self-regulation is the name of the game.

The Sotto Law provides an additional shield for reporters here. Except in national security cases, reporters may not be compelled to reveal their news sources.

The late Romeo Abundo of Philippine News Service and I invoked that law before the House committee on education. We had reported the questions for a nationwide test for teachers 24 hours before the actual exams. The honorable congressmen weren't bothered by the confirmed leakage. They were more interested in identifying the whistle-blower.

British Broadcasting Corporation's Andrew Gilligan refused to identify the source for his report that Downing Street inserted a misleading claim on Iraq's chemical or biological weapons. "Protecting the identity of sources, on contentious issues, is a historic principle of journalism," BBC said.

These shields are a privilege and carry with them duties. Editors agree that shadowy attributions should be the exception, not the rule. Is it the other way around here?

"Journalistic independence can beget arrogance, or the perception of it," warned a Poynter Institute seminar on "Journalism Without Scandal." Transparency in the news process and accountability to readers and listeners are crucial. Thus, codes of ethics try to ensure these attributes.

But there are codes and codes. "There are 35 million laws trying to enforce the Ten Commandments," it has been said.

The Inquirer, Associated Press and other media groups have guidelines for their staffers. The Philippine Press Institute's 11-point code ranges from right of reply to protection of minors. And the Sun Star's syndicated papers hew to a "Code of Standards" that covers journalistic concerns—from accuracy to conflict of interest.

But "a free press is not necessarily an angelic press." Take radio "block-timers." These are walk-in customers who buy airtime, the Center for Media Freedom noted in a study. They are not staff members. Many block-timers never heard of professional guidelines. Will the new adrenalin, pumped into the KBP and the NTC since Proclamation 1017, help resolve this old issue?

In print, politicians stick knives into each other's back under the cloak of "reliable sources." Reporters' opinions are sometimes slipped in as "quotes" from "officials requesting anonymity." Few papers have oversight structures that enable sustained challenge to glib use of nameless sources.

Codes of ethics are not self-implementing. Frail men and women try to work by them, under deadline pressure and under what Times editor Harold Evans called "the invisible environment—the complexity of forces and agencies that we cannot monitor for ourselves but affect our lives."

In this pressure-cooker craft, "anonymous sources" have proved the more nettlesome issue.

"Journalistic integrity involving confidential sources has given The New York Times plenty of headaches," writes the paper's public editor Byron Calame. "So it's not surprising that the paper's anonymous sourcing guidelines have been getting major attention."

Under tighter oversight rules, the Times insists, at least one editor must know the confidential source's name before the story gets published. That's not all. Readers should also be told why the paper believes a source is entitled to anonymity. This is a radical switch from a previous practice where the paper would only state why the source asked for it.

"These two changes are profoundly altering the role of confidential sources," Calame writes. These are internal checks and balances. And they bear repeating because, all too often, reporters assume they can prop up stories on faceless sources with nary a challenge from editors or readers and listeners.

The use of anonymous source is a method of last resort. That's basic. It should be used only when the story is of compelling public interest. A supervising editor must know the source's identity. He must confirm there was no way to get the story out. And the source must have first-hand knowledge.

Reporters and editors must disclose to readers or listeners the source's potential biases. The late BusinessWorld founder Raul Locsin, for example, would insist on a box that indicated the writer's affiliations. To protect a source, journalists may not resort to untruths in the story. Anonymous sources should, instead, be encouraged to go on the record.

Readers and listeners have a stake in media. They too should constantly challenge the use of anonymous sources, so that this becomes the rare exception, not the rule.

"All too often, [the press is] morally smug or factually reckless, or on our worst days, both," columnist Meg Greenfield once wrote. Tighter oversight on nameless sources could reduce our bad days.

* * *

E-mail: juan_mercado@pacific.net.ph

Betrayals

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

IGNACIO BUNYE SAYS THAT "PAGLABAN SA Kataksilan: 1017," a documentary purporting to prove a "Left-Right" conspiracy to topple government and justifying 1017, is now available in CD form and could be had upon request. The computer-savvy may even download it from the Malacañang website.

Well, I can at least assure him the CD will not find its way into the pirates' lairs in Quiapo and elsewhere. Even pirates have taste and draw the line at junk. As to downloading it from the government website, I think the computer-savvy would find better uses for their DSL time, which is not inexpensive. Downloading porn is a much more intelligent use of Bit Torrent.

The first time I heard the premise about the "Left-Right" conspiracy, which was one of the "whereas-es" of 1017, I thought I heard 1081 all over again. That is exactly the same premise of the Marcosian decree that put the country under martial law. Marcos then attributed the anarchy and rebelliousness in his time to a "Left-Right conspiracy," identifying the CPP-NPA as constituting the first, and the "oligarchs," led by the Lopezes, as constituting the second. How they managed to bridge the class chasm to form a bond, only Marcos could say.

His notion, of course, elaborately spelled out in a book called "Today's Revolution: Democracy" (note the resemblance to the title: "Paglaban sa Kataksilan: 1017"), was that he was the "Center." In the same book, as a variation on the theme, he also paraded himself as the center not just of Left and Right but of top and bottom. At the bottom, he said, were the communists who wanted to mount a bloody, "Jacobin" revolution. At the top were the oligarchs who wanted to preserve the status quo and were resisting his efforts to reform society. That notion, of course, now looks sillier than the Three Stooges. Marcos was about as centrist as George W. Bush, Dick Cheney and Donald Rumsfeld are today.

Indeed, all the Arroyo administration's current effort at recycling that propaganda line reminded me of a famous slogan during martial law that said, "*Sa ikauunlad ng bayan, disiplina ang kailangan.*" Ariel Ureta, the most famous TV personality at the time, parodied it into "*Sa ikauunlad ng bayan, bisekleta ang kailangan.*" The martial law regime, which had no sense of humor, a surefire mark of fascist minds, reprimanded him harshly.

Truly, there's something to be said for the saying, "History repeats itself, the first time as tragedy, the second time as farce." What makes this second one farcical?

Well, first off, when Marcos spoke of a conspiracy against him, he was at least the universally recognized president of the country. He had won his reelection bid, the first time a postwar Filipino president had done so. Though the 1969 election was generally regarded as the worst ever, adding new dimensions to guns, goons and gold, there was no doubt he won over Serging Osmeña. By contrast, GMA is speaking of a conspiracy against her when few regard her as the real president of this country. That is borne out by the surveys that say the overwhelming majority of Filipinos do not believe she won the election and the majority of them want her out. Marcos could at least claim he was declaring 1081 to defend a legitimate government against a coup. GMA can only claim she declared 1017 to defend a coup against a legitimate effort to end it.

Second, GMA is the product of a "Left-Right conspiracy." That was how she came to power in the first place, or at least through a "Left-Center-Right conspiracy," also called People Power. If I recall right, Jay Sonza produced a documentary as well about that, shortly after Edsa II. I no longer recall its title, but I do recall that one of its points was that, ironically, at the time the Left-Center-Right conspiracy toppled Erap, the economy was never better. Put those two documentaries side by side and it's easy to see which one the pirates of Quiapo would rather carry in their stalls. The Sonza documentary is far more believable when it talks of a Left, Right and Centrist conspiracy to topple not just a legitimate government but one that had an overwhelming mandate from the people.

As a footnote to this and a cautionary tale for those who think they can push their interests through GMA, she did acknowledge and reward the Left for its help in putting her in power. The honeymoon lasted briefly, the Left swiftly discovering it had just helped install a future Marcos. As *kataksilan* or betrayal goes, GMA shouldn't be accusing the Left of it, the Left should be accusing GMA of it: "Paglaban sa Kataksilan: Rebolusyon."

Third, it's true: There is a Left and a Right conspiracy against GMA. In fact, there's a Centrist one, too. But until GMA declared 1017, that conspiracy could never get off the ground because the Left, Center and Right couldn't get their act together—as GMA's people themselves kept gleefully pointing out, though now they're singing a different tune. Almost overnight, 1017 brought them together. 1017 is the answer to a conspiracy? A conspiracy—of the Left, Right and Center, also known as People Power—is the answer to 1017! Paglaban sa Kataksilan: 1017? Paglaban sa 1017: People Power.

That is the reason GMA lifted 1017 almost as soon as she declared it. That is the reason, too, she cannot afford to arrest the conspirators: there are not enough jails in this country to hold the majority of the population.

As to GMA being the center of Left and Right, top and bottom, well, she is about as centrist as Marcos himself.

You strangle democracy after having been elected president twice, that is tragedy. You strangle democracy after never having been elected president at all, that is farce. Paglaban sa Kataksilan: 1017?

Paglaban sa 666: Krus ng Bayan.

Gov't making martyrs out of leftist reps

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD RESOLVE THE case of the five party-list representatives if it doesn't want to make martyrs out of them. The Left has always been good at making martyrs. The five were charged with rebellion which, the Supreme Court says, is a "continuing crime." Under this principle, the five are already technically under arrest, but they evaded police detention by submitting themselves to the protective custody of the House of Representatives. House members quickly closed ranks to protect the rights of the accused legislators, who were fetched from UP Diliman by Majority Leader Prospero Nograles, Deputy Speaker Arthur Defensor and Minority Leader Francis Escudero. The five are now boarders at Speaker Jose de Venecia's office.

* * *

The preliminary investigation begins today. Under the rules of court, this can take as long as 20 days. If the court finds probable cause, it will issue warrants of arrest. But the police were quite peeved by Rep. Lisa Maza's decision to leave the Batasan premises in violation of the agreement she and her four co-accused made with the police and the House leadership. Throw in the leftist lawmakers' threat to go back to the mountains if they are arrested, and it's easy to see why the police are now pressing to take them into custody, as they have done with Rep. Crispin Beltran.

* * *

De Venecia was quoted as saying he's "already tired" of taking care of his "boarders," but he is sticking to his position: Show the arrest warrants and the police can have them. I can see the police gaining custody but trust the Left to milk it for propaganda with the help of the media and KSP (*kulang sa pansin*) politicians.

By the way, the statement of Fr. Romeo Intengan on the leftist representatives' threat to go back to the mountains was quite strong. Intengan said that while the leftist politicians have been elected, they have no qualms about supporting the New People's Army with congressional funds. Intengan also said they are enjoying "the best of both worlds," as he cited an Ateneo study purporting to have traced a clear link between the above-ground Left group and the New People's Army based on the use of the lawmakers' Countrywide Development Fund.

* * *

Even before the relationship between the two chambers of Congress deteriorated into open animosity, I had always felt that having two chambers was an expensive and useless set-up. The Senate is our most expensive debating society: with only four bills passed last year and nearly P2 billion spent to maintain it, each law cost about P400 million. But the gridlock is not happening only now under GMA's term.

Florencio Abad, former Batanes representative and education secretary and now a member of the Hyatt 10, who supported the parliamentary system until his breakaway from GMA, has pointed out in a 19-page treatise, titled "Should the Philippines Turn Parliamentary?" that the gridlock was as bad during Cory Aquino's time. He noted that in 1987, the majority of those who won seats in Congress ran under Aquino's Laban party. However, many of them could not have won without her personal endorsement. Yet, she had a hard time winning congressional support for her key legislative reform proposals.

This country does not need two chambers that are always fighting each other. It needs only one chamber that reflects demographic realities. Only then will we see faster delivery of public services and real progress.

* * *

The dust had barely settled in Makati following the discovery of a coup plot when GMA went to Market! Market! in Global City, Fort Bonifacio, to visit the "Go Negosyo" entrepreneurs' fair organized by RFM president and presidential adviser on entrepreneurship Jose A. Concepcion III. Armando Bartolome Jr., president of GMB Franchise Developers, shared with this columnist his insight into that activity. He said that both private and government agencies, including the educational sector, conducted seminars for ordinary citizens and it was "most heartwarming and inspiring" to see successful entrepreneurs, such as Concepcion, mentoring those who wanted to go into business, no matter how small. Bartolome, who took time out to share his wisdom and experience, described "Go Negosyo" as a "different revolution" from the one being advocated by the street protestors. To him it showed "the seriousness of entrepreneurs in making positive results for our country, so unlike the behavior of the street rubble-rousers."

* * *

Defeated vice presidential candidate Loren Legarda, in a letter to this newspaper, has accused me of "ignoring a fundamental rule of journalism—that both sides of a controversy should be quoted or cited to ensure fairness in reportage and commentary." I had earlier written that Vice President Noli de Castro's lawyer, Romulo Macalintal, who's also GMA's lawyer, claimed that the Presidential Electoral Tribunal already finished opening at least 30 percent of questioned ballots in Cebu province and city. Cebu gave a 1.02 million margin of victory to GMA and about 900,000 to De Castro, which comprise about 90 percent of their overall margins of victory. Macalintal claimed that no substantial fraud had been discovered in the race for the two top posts and that if this trend held, allegations of electoral fraud should be put to rest.

I met Legarda in various social gatherings since that item came out, the most recent being the Indian National Day a few weeks ago. Each time she would protest Macalintal's claim and I would repeatedly say I'd be happy to print her side. All she needed to do was to instruct her lawyer, Sixto Brillantes, to write me, but she never did. I must now vehemently protest her unfair charge. *Ang hirap kay* Loren, *akala niya* having a pretty face suffices.

The media fight back

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

BECAUSE OF THE RECENT POLITICAL EVENTS, the government has raised its iron hand and directed it toward the media as well. Are we the enemy?

As I write this, media groups and individuals are in court, making a petition for certiorari, prohibition and declaratory relief. Time constraints prevented me from signing the petition, but one of the media groups I am affiliated with signed as one of the petitioners.

The decision to file a petition was made after two meetings between the Free Legal Assistance Group (FLAG) and media practitioners. The contents of the petition were fully discussed with the parties concerned, and substantial changes were made to ensure that the petition addressed the concerns of both print and broadcast journalists.

Rarely do journalists go to court for reasons connected with their work. Why did the media go to court? Here is a technical summary of the objectives. This could be very instructive for those who are not in the legal profession.

- To declare that the Executive Department, represented by the executive secretary, the secretary of justice, the director general of the Philippine National Police, the chair of the National Telecommunications Commission, and their officers, agents or other persons acting under their authority or supervision, have no lawful power, authority or jurisdiction to prohibit the publication or airing of news and commentary based upon its contents.

Only a court, with its accompanying due process safeguards, may impose content-based prior restraints, when the grounds therefor are duly proved.

- To prohibit the executive secretary, the PNP, DOJ and NTC from imposing any form of content-based prior restraint on the press, be it formal or informal, direct or in the form of disguised or thinly veiled threats of administrative sanction or criminal prosecution. The threat of official intervention—in the form of administrative sanction or criminal prosecution—is just as damaging to a free press as the fact of it.

- To annul and set aside the issuances of the NTC, prohibiting the press from airing or broadcasting news and commentary that, in the NTC's sole and unfettered discretion, are "subversive," which "tend" to propose or incite sedition or rebellion, or which constitute "rebellious/terrorist propaganda, comments, information, interviews and other similar or related materials."

The NTC does not have any lawful power, authority or jurisdiction to prohibit these, much less judge what is subversive (when the crime of subversion has long been repealed), what merely "tends" to propose or incite sedition or rebellion (whatever that means to the NTC), and what constitutes "rebellious/terrorist propaganda, comments and the like (whatever that means to the NTC).

The dangers of unreviewable administrative actions that impose prior restraints on the press are as ancient as dictators. The petitioners seek the intervention of the Court to stop the use of the strong arm of the law to exclude speech as protected by the Constitution.

The petition is not hinged on the declaration of a state of national emergency; hence, the lifting of Presidential Proclamation 1017 does not in any way affect the nature and objectives of the petition.

The petitioners are media organizations, journalists and broadcasters, and members of the academe.

The respondents are Eduardo R. Ermita, executive secretary; Raul Gonzalez, secretary of justice; Arturo Lomibao, director general of the Philippine National Police; and Ronald Olivar Solis, chair of the National Telecommunications Commission.

The venue is the Court of Appeals. The Supreme Court has no jurisdiction to hear petitions for declaratory relief.

FLAG has concerns over the current composition of the Supreme Court, most of whose members were appointed by President Macapagal-Arroyo. FLAG also has concerns over the outcome of the petitions challenging 1017.

As the Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility (CMFR) explained, the petition asserts media's rights against any censorship or prior restraint—rights that are protected under the Constitution. Whether 1017 has been lifted or not, the petition proceeds. It holds executive officials Ermita, Lomibao, Solis and Gonzalez responsible for pronouncements and issuances that seek to impose restrictions on the media.

The petition asserts that "only a court, with its accompanying due process safeguards, may impose content-based prior restraints." The petitioners therefore ask the court to prohibit the officials mentioned from "imposing any form of content-based prior restraint on the press, be it formal or informal, direct or in the form of disguised or thinly veiled threats of administrative sanction or criminal prosecution."

Only the courts, after due process, and not any executive agency, have the right to impose restrictions on media content.

CMFR and other media groups like the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism, the Philippine Press Institute, and the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines signed as corporate entities. Other media groups and individual journalists have joined in the battle.

All are one in saying, "Never again."

* * *

Send feedback to cerespd@info.com.ph

Listen and read

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

IN THE LAST YEARS OF HER LIFE, SHE WOULD send me books about herself. Such was her nature, however, that there seemed nothing self-serving, nothing egotistical at all about her doing so. Each volume was carefully inscribed with words of encouragement, gentle reminders and suggestions involving the lessons to be gleaned from her life's work. And how glittering her achievements were in the many lives she lived: in the academe, the girl scouts, in government, the United Nations, in the Museo Pambata…

She was the kind of person who insisted that it wasn't old fashioned to expect—even demand—that those who enjoyed either prominence or some kind of gift (artistic, intellectual, spiritual, moral or financial) must do something for the country, though not necessarily in the to-be-expected ways. She was one of those rare kinds of leaders, one who delighted in collaboration, and was proudest when teamwork won the day. She was no well-meaning fairy floating above the sordid realities of life. She was a capable executive. She was a visionary, too, seeing that the future lay in building the country from the ground up. Progress, for her, was "trickle up," not "trickle down."

She outlined what she set out to do, in government: "I at once insisted on democratization, meaning processes that respect the person and thus ensure a people-centered department… I involved all my senior staff in the decision process… Before my time, the procedure was to issue orders from the top to the lower levels. We changed that procedure. Henceforth, our policy was to let welfare programs and priorities be decided by the people themselves, at the grass roots level of governance, which is the barangay. Each barangay group would consult its constituents, decide what their local problems and priorities were, and then formulate a 'baranganic' plan of action to submit to the welfare department. Like any revolutionary idea, this concept was met with opposition and cynicism. To make sure it was implemented, my staff and I fanned out all over the country, to listen to the people, list their needs and requests, and to train local social workers in the conduct of assemblies to determine a baranganic consensus. The local social workers we trained would in turn interpret the empowerment process to their people: the poor telling the workers about their priorities…"

Explaining what she was proudest of having accomplished as secretary of Social Welfare and Development, she said, "We really decentralized operations, we completely regionalized and thus localized operations. Before, even a clerk anywhere had to be appointed from Manila, and usually he had to wait until he could come up with a *padulas*, a *regalo* to the appointing powers… It is unfortunate that most officials do not want their authority shared to empower the poor. They want to hold on to power…"

The late Nick Joaquin, in his biography of her, "One Woman's Liberating: The Life and Career of Estefania Aldaba-Lim," penned this word-portrait of her as she talked to her biographer: "She forces herself to reminisce, often shutting her eyes tight to bring back the child she was, or the schoolgirl, or the young wartime bride. Her speech is precise, the voice is fluent, the tone is mellow—though sometimes the words become crisp, curt, even caustic, in remembered anger. Then the fine eyes will dart and flash, and you get a glimpse of Fanny imperious. Hers is a luminous complexion that inflames to emotion."

Joaquin's title seems to have been inspired by something she told him. Describing to the writer what she felt she'd learned, as a woman, she said: "A woman fights back effectively, not by becoming more masculine, but by becoming more feminine. Only she can liberate herself, nobody else. And she does that by participating in all kinds of activity, even those outside her specialty. Myself, for instance: I don't like politics, but I went into it because it is vital to be involved in movements that have impact on the country's development and progress. I went into social welfare because I wanted to teach the poor self-reliance: this was one way of helping women, the uneducated and unskilled, to liberate themselves."

She concluded with some rigorous self-analysis: "But in the process of helping others, I am liberating myself. I am not confined to my own particular field—say, Psychology—but can range freely in any direction because I have made myself participate in the entire gamut of human endeavor and can say, I have proved competent in various areas. Only thus can a woman overcome the so-called man's world. Participation is the key procedure, not confrontation."

So then, why did she send me those books? Did she do beyond a desire to make a gracious gesture to a young writer she wanted to encourage, and as a token of friendship between families? To me, looking back on her life, her gestures came from her recognizing the duty of elders to pass on to the young more than just fond memories. Saint Augustine famously described in his "Confessions" the kind of mystical spark she, perhaps, had hoped to achieve. A wayward youth, Augustine heard a voice; and it told him, "*Tolle, lege.*" Listen, read. That was God, of course, talking to a future saint; but it could be every father, mother, concerned aunt or uncle, telling the next, impatient, impetuous, perhaps, earnest, but also often confused, generation, "Listen, read." The road ahead is less difficult, if we realize that the path is lined with paving stones hewn by those who have come before us.

Estefania Aldaba-Lim: Tita Fanny to so many grateful people, like myself—farewell, and thank you.

Malcolm

YOUNG BLOOD

Stephen Co

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

FOR THE FIRST 14 YEARS OF MY LIFE, I WAS CONTENTED with having two younger brothers. But Mom and Dad saw the imbalance of having two children being pitted against one whenever we fought among ourselves, since almost always, one brother would side with another, although as in our national politics, party-switching was common. So Mom and Dad decided to make things equal by creating a new player.

Initially, we objected vigorously. We argued that good things came in threes—from the classic Three Musketeers, to the musical Three Tenors, and the original Power Rangers who were originally composed of Jason, Zack and Billy.

However, Mom and Dad pointed out that the Ninja Turtles and Popeye's nephews were four in number. And when Tommy the Green Ranger came into the picture, we knew our cause was lost.

They asked us if we wanted a sister or another brother. After careful deliberations, we decided that another boy was more fun to wrestle with in bed than a girl.

True enough, in February 2000, a baby boy was added to our family. He was the length of my forearm, I estimated, the moment I saw him in a plastic crib in the hospital nursery. What worried me most then was if the nurse gave the wrong baby to us. But I settled the issue by deciding to wait for him to grow up and see if he looked like one of us.

Finally, Malcolm was brought home. I longed to hold him, but I was filled with anxiety. How fragile was he? Was he as delicate as my friend's week-old puppy that mysteriously died after I tossed it in the air and caught it as it came falling at normal acceleration due to gravity? I decided I would not try that on him.

After a few weeks, I could not wait for him to grow up. When would he lift his head? Roll over? Crawl? Walk? Jump? Swim? Yet, I did not notice him grow every day for the first four years of his life.

That same year shortly after Christmas, I left for Singapore for my high school education. I was more concerned about how fast I could make new friends there than how much I would miss my family. Even when homesickness was at its peak during my first few months in the city state, I never missed Malcolm. It was only when I entered our home again during my first holiday that the thought occurred to me: Did he still remember me? I had been away for three months.

When I first approached my youngest brother, now 15 months old and perched comfortably in the arms of his *yaya*, he glanced askance at me with shifting but not penetrating eyes. He tilted his head in dubious recognition, but his eyes never left mine. When he leaned forward to embrace me, "oohs" from my grandmother and nannies filled the place.

After a week, I flew back to Singapore.

Now after four years and after taking 20 flights between Manila and Singapore, I can see that Malcolm can reach the light switches. He has grown twice as tall and gained weight eight times, weighing a hefty 65 pounds and counting. His belly is as round as his face.

Once when my 18-year-old brother Alex and I were paying for our groceries, we spotted two pretty teenage girls glancing in our direction. When they started walking toward us, we puffed our chests and assumed our best poses. But before we knew it, they were down on their knees with their cell-phone cameras, asking Malcolm to pose for shots. My brother and I could only look on with envy.

Whenever I am with female friends and he also happens to be around, Malcolm manages to grab their attention. Girls seem to fall easily for his childish charm and witty remarks. Even this early, they are predicting that he will someday become a heartbreaker.

One day during Christmas vacation, my brother brought Malcolm along to watch a movie with some of his friends. In the middle of a movie, Malcolm whispered to the girl beside him, "It's freezing cold in here. Can you hold my hand?"

Imagine that! He is 5 and already he has become a smooth talker.

I just hope Malcolm will grow up faster so that he will understand that not all our female friends are our girlfriends. Then perhaps he will laugh when I tell him how much he liked teenage girls when he was 5 or when he learns how much trouble he caused us when he mixed up the names of our girlfriends. Then, too, he will learn to ask for gifts only twice a year, and get to enjoy it when his nephews do the things he is now doing to us, his brothers.

Stephen Co, 19, is a first year BS Biology student at the Ateneo de Manila University.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

THEY SAID

Political default

"It would be pitiful if we do not pursue this case just because they think it's all part of politics or just because those who died or suffered injuries were poor in life and should just be forgotten."

—Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita on government efforts to hold liable those perceived to be responsible for the PhilSports Arena stampede that killed 74 people and injured hundreds

Groaning budget

"This budget groans under the weight of loan repayments, our collective penance for engaging in the national sport that is tax evasion."

—Rep. Rolando Andaya, outgoing chair of the House of Representatives' committee on appropriations, on the long-delayed proposed national budget

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The gall of the 'best' leader

CONRADO DE QUIROS MADE ME laugh when he said: "I love Cory." (PDI, 2/28/06) Indeed, President Corazon Aquino had her share of woes during her term, but to compare her with Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is an insult. The Arroyo administration excels in corruption, lying, cheating and in all other shortcomings relative to governance.

I wonder if GMA and her cohorts remember the golden rule of God. Does she really love our country? I know that love is sacrifice, it does not boast, it does not envy; love rejoices with the truth, it does not think evil. (1 Cor. 13)

What really saddened (and angered me) was her telling the whole world that she's the "best" person to lead us. The gall of this woman! She's living in a world of make-believe. Are her feet still on the ground? It's evident that her administration is founded on a lie. My parents taught us to always tell the truth. God commanded us to do so.

May these verses from the Bible pierce her heart and those of her officials: "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves." (Philippians 2:3) "Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows." (Galatians 6:7) "Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account." (Hebrews 4:13)

—LORNA CHEN,
s3682026@ms32.hinet.net

Still counting on SSS' commitment to its mission

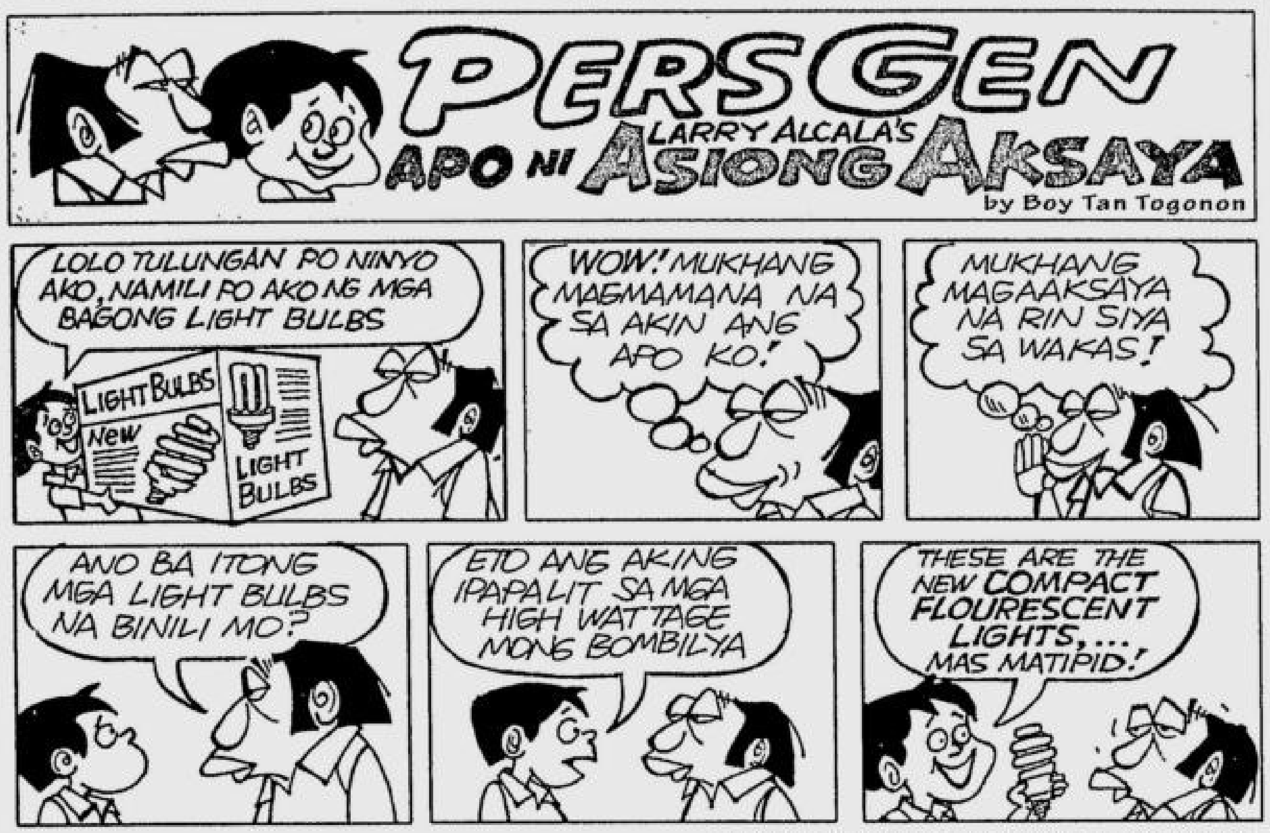
AS EARLY AS JULY 2005, THE BRANCH manager of the Social Security System-Iloilo sent the head of the accounting department of the SSS main office in Quezon City a request for a status update on my cancelled check amounting to P86,100. This check covered the compensation due me in connection with death of my father, Magno B. Sungkiat.

However, in spite of the urgency of SSS-Iloilo's request, which was followed up on Sept. 12, 2005, SSS main did not respond. It was only prodded to action when the Mamamayan Muna arm of the Civil Service Commission interceded on my behalf upon my request. SSS main simply referred my problem to SSS-Bacolod on Jan. 20, 2006.

As I write these lines, I am still unsure whether a replacement check will finally be made to me by SSS-Bacolod. What I am sure of is SSS-Bacolod is the hub of the cluster of SSS branches in Western Visayas. SSS-Bacolod may just once more refer my problem back to SSS-Ilioilo.

It is now March 2006. A period of almost eight months has elapsed since I requested an update on my check in July 2005. I trust that the SSS will be true to its avowed mission and will finally give the benefit due me.

—MARLYN SUNGKIAT-LANCISO,
Quezon Street, Poblacion Libacao,
5502 Aklan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APO NI ASIONG AKSAYA
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LIGHT BULBS
NEW
LIGHT BULBS
WOW! MUKHANG MAGMAMANA NA SA AKIN ANG APO KO!
MUKHANG MAGAAKSAYA NA RIN SIYA SA WAKAS!
ANO BA ITONG MGA LIGHT BULBS NA BINILI MO?
ETO ANG AKING IPAPALIT SA MGA HIGH WATTAGE MONG BOMBILYA
THESE ARE THE NEW COMPACT FLOURESCENT LIGHTS, ... MAS MATIPID!

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ADVT

Working to promote interest of youth

WE APPRECIATE THE OBSERVATION OF CARL Marc Ramota about the deletion of the provision pertaining to the youth (Section 13, Article II of the 1987 Constitution) in the proposed Constitution submitted to Congress by the Consultative Commission. (PDI, 2/20/06)

During the Council of State meeting (last January), which then Chair Bam Aquino and I attended, we were given the opportunity to point out the deletion. In that meeting, we also had the opportunity to share with Chair Jose Abueva of the ConCom our point of view regarding the deletion.

I have been appointed as member of the Charter Change Advocacy Council created by Executive Order 495. This council, which is composed mostly of former ConCom members, passed a resolution recommending to Congress the reinstatement of the deleted provision. The council is now conducting in key areas of the country a series of consultations with the youth. The consultations focus on the Charter change and other youth-related issues with the aim of coming up with a stronger national youth policy.

We recognize the vigilance of the youth in this particular issue. Rest assured that the National Youth Commission is doing its best to protect the interest of the sector. We hope that with our collective effort, we will be able to work this situation to the advantage of the Filipino youth.

—RICHARD ALVIN M. NALUPTA,
chair and chief executive officer,
National Youth Commission,
Malacañang, Manila

Foolproof against fake CTPL policies

WE THANK HONESTO GENERAL FOR REvealing in his Feb. 13 column just how complicated, inconvenient and cumbersome it would be to the motor vehicle registrant if a "clearing house" were to supervise the issuance of CTPL (compulsory third party liability) policies.

From the way he explained it, the "clearing house" would complicate the process for the motor vehicle registrant who would have to course CTPL payment through the banks. How this would avert the issuance of fake CTPL and prevent the insurance companies from cheating on their taxes on premiums is inconceivable in a transaction completely controlled by the insurance agent and the bank.

General admitted that the "players" (insurance firms that had previously issued CTPLs) would be the same. But he claimed that it would be a totally different "ball game." It was like saying that the players who had cheated would continue to play. And that supposedly would stop cheating. Only the hopelessly naïve will believe that. Besides, the concept had been tried before through a "consortium," and it proved to be an unqualified failure.

General explained that under the Insurance Commission proposal, the vehicle owner would still be required to look for an agent to purchase his cover. The agent accepts payment and informs the bank through a computer, giving the name of the registrant and the license plate of the vehicle, after which the policy is printed out in the computer. The bank is supposed to credit the taxes to the government, even before it receives payment. If the agent has no computer, he can use an Internet café. Will this also eliminate fixers?

In the proposal, there is no guarantee that the policy will not be fake, or that the government would get its share of taxes. Even if the bank gets the payment, it can withhold or delay the remittance of the taxes, as some banks have been wont to do in regard to other taxes paid through them.

The GSIS proposal is the simplest and the best. It is convenient to the taxpayer because he does not have to go to an insurance office to purchase his CTPL policy. All he has to do is go straight to the Land Transportation Office registrar and pay the CTPL premium, along with his registration fees. His registration receipt will be his Certificate of Cover by the GSIS. Taxes on premium will be credited directly and instantly to the national treasury.

This will not create a monopoly; private companies can still participate through the reinsurance system.

General claims that the GSIS does not have the assets to cover the entire CTPL field. What private company can match the GSIS' assets of P308.6 billion? Besides, what is most important is that the motor vehicle owner and the potential accident victim are fully covered by insurance as the GSIS proposal is foolproof against fake policies. The government is also assured of taxes.

—JOSEFINA L. VALERA,
senior vice president,
General Insurance Group,
Government Service Insurance System,
Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City

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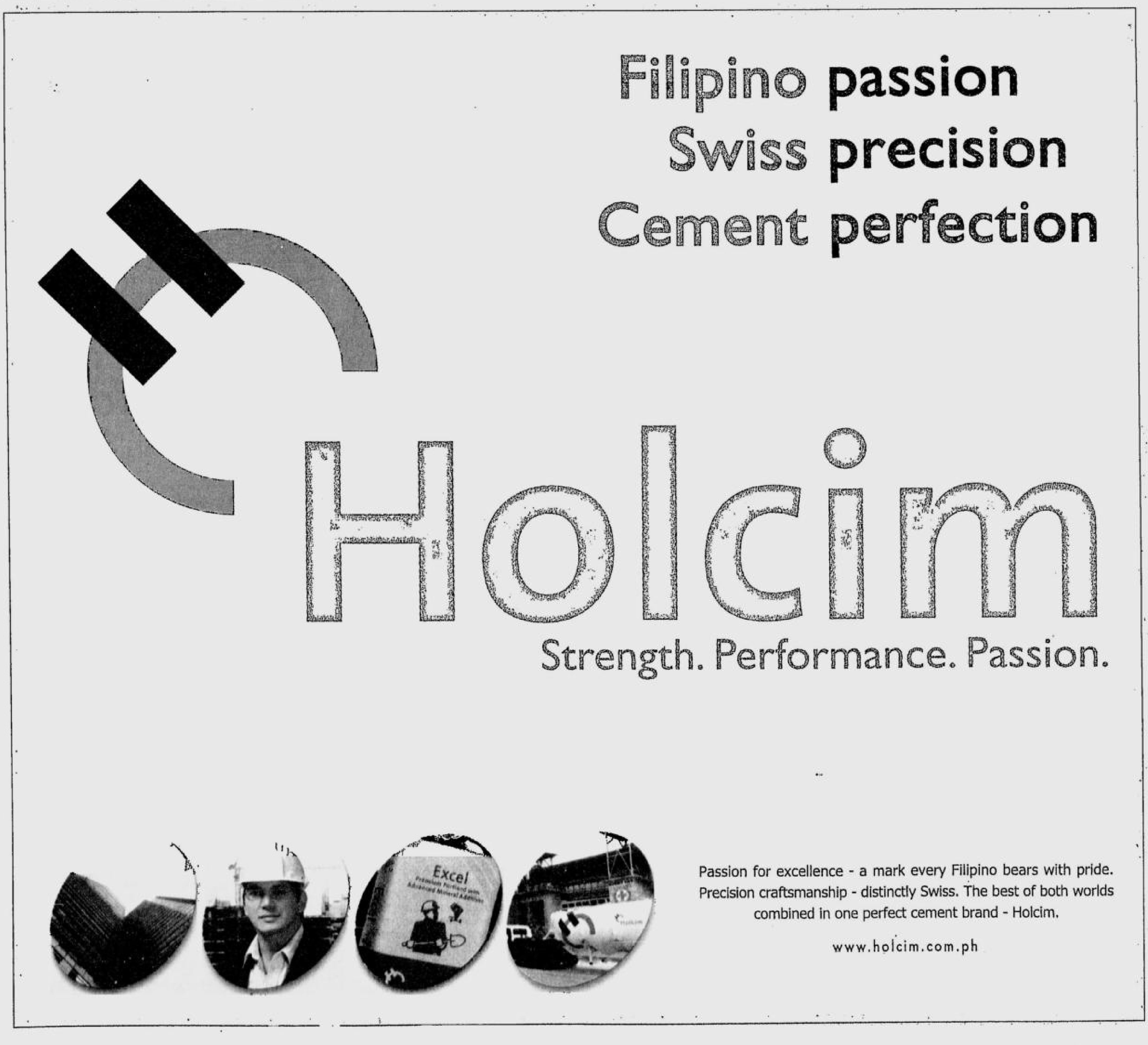

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Editor **Jun Bandayrel**
Bureau Chief **Floreño G. Solmirano**

'Batingting' warns Quezon folk of disaster

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
Lucena City

TO PREVENT A REpeat of the calamitous tragedies that swept the towns of Real, Infanta and General Nakar (Reina) in northern Quezon two years ago, people in the government and private sectors have collaborated to put up an early warning system in disaster-prone areas in the province.

RAMON Isberto, Smart public affairs head, demonstrates the use of the "batingting" to villagers in northern Quezon.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A central part of the system is the *"batingting,"* a device consisting of an oxygen tank cut in half and attached with a handle, and a metal bar that sends a loud, sharp clang echoing to distant villages.

The tanks were painted bright orange for easy visibility.

On Dec. 9 last year, several of these devices, as well as radio equipment, were donated by telecommunications giant Smart Communications Inc. to the three Quezon towns that were battered by a series of killer floods and landslides in late November and December 2004 that left hundreds of people dead and millions of pesos worth of property destroyed.

The "batingting" were deployed to strategic villages where warnings of an impending disaster could be sounded out immediately among them, according to Darwin Flores, Smart's community partnership program manager. Each device cost P1,200 to manufacture.

Real received four two-way radios, one base radio, and 19 *"batingting,"* while Infanta and General Nakar each got three two-way radios, one base radio, and 28 *"batingting."*

Flores said his company also distributed 15,000 leaflets written in Filipino that contained steps on what to do in case of flash flood, landslide and tsunami. The information materials were disseminated to disaster-prone villages of the three towns, he said.

He said Smart took an active part in the design, sourcing and fabrication of the *"batingting"* under the "Support for the Community Based Early Warning System" project of the company in the three towns.

The project was implemented in cooperation with the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, Department of Science and Technology, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, National Disaster Coordinating Council and local government units.

Safety campaign

Quezon Rep. Rafael Nantes said that immediately after rehabilitation efforts in the devastated areas began, he initiated a safety information and education campaign among the villagers.

He said his office had been conducting emergency training and exercises to make the people aware of what to do in case of another calamity. His staff have also been distributing safety information leaflets during meetings and barangay assemblies.

Nantes also provided radio units and other emergency equipment to villages in his area.

"The safety of the people starts with their full understanding of the dangers and the correct response to any eventuality. We have to equip the people [with] the capacity to avoid and survive any calamity," he said.

But the lawmaker stressed that the most important way to prevent disasters was not to disturb and abuse the environment. "If people and concerned government agencies do not learn, nature will again unleash its wrath upon us," Nantes said.

Logging in the Sierra Madre's long mountain chain has been identified as among the key causes of natural disasters, he said.

Disaster watchers

General Nakar's environment and natural resources officer said the portable radios and the *"batingting"* were given to concerned persons in the villages along the Agos River.

"Most of them were placed in the service of the persons manning watch points in Barangay Pagsangahan at the upper portion of the Agos River," said Jing Astejada, who is also an environment management specialist.

"The sound of the *'batingting,'* when pounded hard, can be heard far enough to reach the nearby sitios," she said. The system has been tested in previous emergency situations and found useful, she added.

Infanta's disaster and coordinating council communication officer said the municipal government also relied on the same early warning setup to alert residents.

"We have our own flood watch points in the upper Agos River and rain gauges that can immediately relay to us any alarming situations for our quick response," Ron Crisostomo said.

A river rechanneling project that local officials already started will help reduce the danger of flash floods, he said.

Watch points

Henry Buzar, coordinator of the Quezon Disaster Coordinating Council, said the watch points were being manned by trained villagers, together with members of volunteer radio groups in the area.

"All information is immediately transmitted to all villagers and to the emergency operation center," Buzar said.

The watch points use codes for different water levels of the Agos River that correspond to specific courses of action.

"An evacuation signal will indicate the time that trucks are positioned along with rescue groups," Buzar said.

Astejada said General Nakar had started a survey of the river, with the assistance of a nongovernment group and two volunteer geologists from the University of the Philippines.

The survey aims to determine critical areas for erosion and landslides, river characteristics, crops suitable for planting along the banks, buffer zone species and engineering intervention.

The results of the survey are now being presented to villagers to help them decide on what appropriate measures to undertake, Astejada said.

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March 9, 2006
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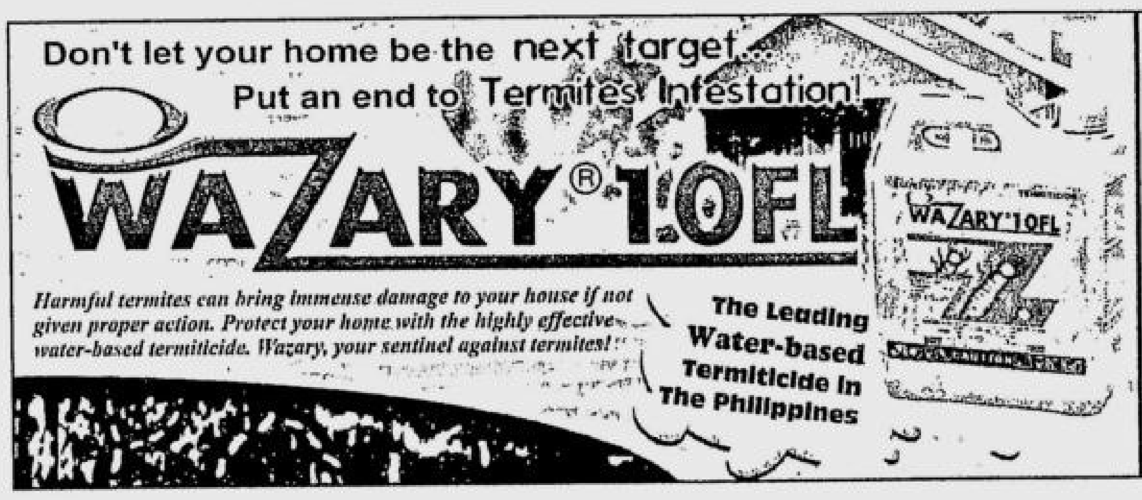
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TV GUIDE

Thursday, March 9, 2006

Who will be next? Find out here on your Philippine Idol Network
American Idol
Wed-Thurs-Fri 10pm
ABC
Iba Tayo!

Provided by ClickTheCity.com

For more TV schedules:
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2. Key in CTC TV and send to 2333 for Globe and to 225 for Smart. PhP2.50 per SMS sent.

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM			
ABC 5			WNCAA (Rerun)		Barclays EPL		Goals		Sentro	Mumbai Thrillers	S O S		Wag Yan Sa Lolo Ko		Big News	American Idol			Dokyu
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema			Pasion de Amor	Little Amy	Mr Bean	Naruto	Amazing Twins		TV Patrol World	Gulong Ng Palad	Sa Piling Mo	Princess Lulu	Pinoy Big Brother		Maalaala Mo Kaya			Insider
AXN		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (Season 6)		CSI: Miami (Season II)		30 Seconds To Fame	Samsung Sports World	Cold Squad (Season V)		Numb3rs (Season I)		Fear Factor (Season V)		Fear Factor		When Disasters Strike!		The Contender	
Cartoon Network	Johnny Bravo	Dexter's Laboratory	Tom & Jerry Show		Baby Looney Tunes	Codename Kids Next Door	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	Power Rangers Wild Force	The Gransazers	Battle B-Daman	Energy Bomb	X-Men Evolution	Samurai Jack	Justice League	Static Shock	Power Rangers Wild Force	The Gransazers
Cinemax	Two For Texas			All The President's Men				The Relic (6:15 PM)				Guilty As Charged			Buffalo Soldiers (9:35 PM)			Wonderland (11:10PM)	
CNN				Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International		World News Asia		World News	World Sport/ Global Office/ CNN Business Traveler	World News Asia		World News	World Sport
Disney Channel	Mr Bean The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Un-Bakaliva Bunny	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Lilo & Stitch	Sabrina The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr Bean The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Lizzie Mcguire		Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Ranger	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN		Pro billiards 2003 Wheelchair Billiards Cship Marietta, GA USA										Sportscenter Asia							
ETC		For Love Or Money 3		Change of Heart	Elimidate	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	The Tyra Banks Show		Will & Grace 4	Insider Weekend/ Rated On	Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
EWTN	The Catholic Faith & Vatican II	Angelus (3:15 PM)	Virtue Storybook	Image Of God	Your Vocation: God's Call In Your Life	Rosary With Mother Angelica	Good Or Evil, Who Decides?	EWTN Gallery	Where God Weeps	EWTN Live (Encore) With Fr. Mitch Pacwa		Catechisme And Controversies	The Word Was Made Flesh	Daily Mass (SAP) Live		Angelus (10:15PM)	St. Thomas More Faithful Statesman	The Journey Home Encore	
Fox News		Hannity & Colmes		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Fox & Friends						Fox News Live			
GMA 7	Kung Mamahalin Mo Lang Ako	Now and Forever	First Love Of A Royal Prince		Dragonball Z	Great Teacher Onizuka	La Robe de Mariage	24 Oras		Extra Challenge	Encantadia	My Name Is Kim Sam Soon	Starstruck 3	Jewel In The Palace		Magpakailanman			Saksi
Hallmark Channel	Bewitched	Sue Thomas: F.B. Eye II		Mermaid (3:50 PM)			Ladies Man	Bewitched	The Nanny	Strong Medicine		Judging Amy		Mystery Woman: Mystery Weekend			Judging Amy (10:35PM)		Strong Medicine
HBO				Judas (4:15 PM)			Hooper (5:45 PM)				Frankenfish			The Untouchables				A Soldier's Story	
Hero TV	Yakitate! Japan	Mr Ajikko	D.I.C.E.	Samurai Deeper Kyo	Beyblade V Force	Crush Gear Nitro	Shadow Of The Elves	Mission Odyssey	Rune Soldier	Naruto	Mirmo de Pon	Inuyasha	Yu-Gi-Oh	Yakitate! Japan	Mr. Ajikko	D.I.C.E.	Samurai Deeper Kyo	Mission Odyssey	Rune Soldier
IBC 13		EZ Shop				Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Pangarap Kong Jackpot		Home Shopping Network		ME TV		Japan Video Topics		Global Family Series	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
JackTV	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	The Late Show David Letterman		Smackdown				JLU	Just For Laughs (Gags)	Mad TV		That 70s Show	Everybody Hate Chris	The Late Show David Letterman		The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Comedy Central Presents	South Park	The Man Show
Lifestyle Network	Secret Gardens	The Fixl	Mission Organization	Carol Duvall	Molto Mario	Hot Off The Grill	Good Eats	Extreme Cuisine	Unwrapped	Tyler's Ultimate	E! News Weekend		Life Is Great With Brooke Burke	Life & Style		Your Private Island	Genuine Article	E! True Hollywood Story	
MTV Philippines		MTV Cribs	MTV Hits		Pimp My Ride	Pop Inc		2006 MAA Nominee Specials	MTV Hits				Get Spotted	TRL		Punk'D	Brand New		VH1 Video Collections
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	MYX News	MYX Fista	Star MYX	MYXILOG	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		MYX Presents		MYX Bandarito	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX
National Geographic	Wild Family Secrets	Megastructures		Strange Days On Planet Earth		Edge Of Universe		Top 6 - Mysterious Universe		Wow!		About Asia		National Geographic Specials		Megastructures 3 Dubai's Palm Island		Strange Days On Planet Earth	
NBN		Value Vision		New Life TV Shopping		Teledyaryo	Diyos Ko, Mahal Ko Ba Siya?	Tinig ng Bayan (Live)				Teledyaryo				Network Forum		Bantay OCW With Susan K	
Nickelodeon	Chalkzone	Hey Arnold!	Rocket Power	Four Eyes	My Life As A Teenage Robot	The Adventures Jimmy Neutron	The Fairly Odd Parents	Drake & Josh	Naturally Sadie	Romeo	All That	All Grown Up	As Told By Ginger	Four Eyes	My Life As A Teenage Robot	The Adventures Jimmy Neutron	The Fairly Odd Parents	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Estudyante Blues				Ginintuang Tala				Kamandag Ng Kris				Pitong Gamol				[illegible]
Qtv	Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin		Zenki	The Prince Of Tennis	MMS (My Music Station)		Moms		Love At Aegean Sea	Irene	Mars	Laugh To Laugh: Ang Kulit	O, Mare Ko		News On Q	Women's Desk		MINT (Music Interactive)	
RPN 9	TV Shopping					Global Window		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The 4400		Medium		Invasion		Newswatch Now	Global Window	Kasangga Mo Ang Langit	Police Hour
SBN 21				New Life TV Shopping				Winner TV Shopping		SBN Music Video		Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Friends Again		SBN Music Video	
Solar Sports		IBF German Open '04 MD Final		2006 Adelaide Open Finals: Sierra vs Malissa			NBA Game Blazers @ Mavericks					NBA Game Pacers @ Rockets					Sportsdesk	Philippine Open Semifinals	
Sports Plus	NBA Game Houston @ Minnesota					World Poker Tour 2				Gillette World Cup Preview 2	Slipstream	World's Greatest Auto Shows		World Game		Big Ben Celebrity Poker Challenge			
Star Movies						The Newton Boys (5:15 PM)					Alex & Emma (7:20 PM)			Out For A Kill			Braveheart		
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		General Hospital		Angel		American Idol 2006		Star News Asia	Friends (Series 10)	American Idol 2006		2006 48th Annual Grammy Awards Live!				Friends (Series 10)	American Idol 2006
Studio 23		Yugioh Duel Monster		UAAP				Batman Beyond	Spirits	Wazzup Wazzup	The Contender		Alias (8:30 PM)	Desperate Housewives		News Central	Oprah		Sol

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MILF survives rebellion by anti-peace guerrillas

COTABATO CITY—Leaders of a Moro separatist group negotiating peace with the government foiled a plot to unseat them by a faction that was opposed to the peace negotiations.

MURAD

Guerrillas loyal to Moro Islamic Liberation Front chair Murad Ibrahim laid siege to a village in Rajah Buayan, Maguindanao to prevent other guerrillas from massing up and protesting against the holding of the talks and the leadership of Murad.

Two senior MILF leaders, Musanip Abdullah alias Commander Adan and Bitol Mateng alias Commander Guevara, confirmed to the INQUIRER that their forces had ringed Barangay Pidsandawan on Saturday to thwart a planned power grab by other MILF units against its chair, Murad Ibrahim.

They said their action had the blessings of the MILF Central Committee and its peace panel.

The renegades were led by Ameril Umbrah Kato and Wahid Tondok, who support Samir Hashim, younger brother of the late MILF chair Salamat Hashim. The two want Samir to become MILF chair.

Abdullah and Mateng were Murad's comrades in the Moro National Liberation Front before martial law.

Col. Frank del Prado of the 6th Army Infantry Division said the two MILF factions earlier clashed in Mamasapano and Datu Saudi Ampatuan towns in Maguindanao.

Del Prado said the military would not interfere because of a ceasefire agreement with the MILF.

The Malaysian government, which is hosting the peace talks, had informed the MILF and government panels that the meeting scheduled this month had to be postponed indefinitely following President Macapagal-Arroyo's declaration of a national state of emergency last week.

But a source said Malaysian authorities were alarmed by a report of the International Monitoring Team about "imminent disunity" in the MILF.

Chief government negotiator Silvestre Afable said earlier that the two panels were to sign an initial agreement on ancestral domain, the thorniest issue in the talks.

The ancestral domain agreement, Afable said, would signal the end of exploratory talks and the start of formal negotiations.

Afable said the formal negotiations were expected to last until September, when a peace agreement would have been signed. *Nash B. Maulana and Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Pact on ancestral domain seen this month

CAMP AQUINO, TARLAC CITY—The panels negotiating peace between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front are set to sign this month an accord on ancestral domain, the third and final agenda that would pave the way for the conclusion of peace talks in September.

SARMIENTO

Rene Sarmiento, deputy presidential adviser on the peace process, revealed this development here on Wednesday.

He said the issue on ancestral domain had been hammered out after the panel settled the agenda on economic development and rehabilitation, and security and ceasefire.

"This is going to be a very important milestone," Sarmiento told the INQUIRER.

In an interview during a presentation of updates on ongoing negotiations with rebel groups, Sarmiento said the MILF was having its land rights recognized "within the framework of the Ipra (Indigenous Peoples Rights Act.)"

"Many people are saying that there would be a Moro homeland. Christian groups have apprehensions about this. They have nothing to fear; no separate territory shall be carved for them (MILF)," he said.

Sarmiento said the consensus on the last issue had been reached in the 10th exploratory talks held in Malaysia on Feb. 6.

Both parties can now move forward in the signing of a comprehensive agreement in the three areas of concern, he said.

"We are now at the homestretch," he said, referring to the negotiations that began three years ago with the 15,000-strong MILF, which he described as the "biggest organized Islamic force in the world."

The talks, which he said Malaysia has helped facilitate and which Libya and Indonesia have closely monitored, have also prepared the establishment of the Bangsa Moro Development Authority (BMDA).

In the pledging session held in October last year, Sarmiento said several countries have committed P143 million for the capability building of the BMDA.

"Governments are watching how this agreement is going to conclude," he said.

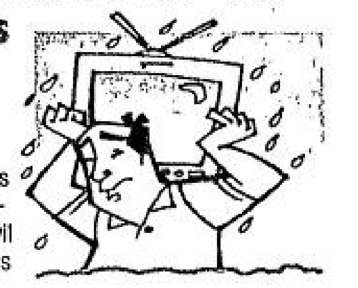
Sarmiento said he saw no major hitches coming in the run-up to the September settlement.

At the same time, he said the ceasefire between the military and the MILF has "held on," with skirmishes "significantly dropping" in recent months.

"I'm very optimistic about the conclusion because both parties are positive about it," Sarmiento said. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

ROUNDUP

Surigao folk flee homes



BUTUAN CITY—Residents of coastal and upland areas of Tandag, Surigao del Sur fled their homes starting Sunday as Typhoon "Basyang" brought heavy rains. "The people are taking pro-active measures to avoid possible landslides," said Liza Mazo, regional coordinator of the Office of Civil Defense. Tandag, the province's capital, has been identified as a landslide-prone area.

Franklin A. Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Mayor's suspected killer named

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The suspect in the killing of Isabela City Mayor Luis Rubio Biel II has been identified, but police were still investigating the motive for the crime. Senior Insp. William Gadayan, Isabela City police chief, named the suspect as Jaber Abdula Gannih, 24, a political science student at the Basilan State College and former scholar of Malate Manila Computer Learning Program. Omar Suhod, spokesperson of the Muslim Religious Leaders of Basilan, said Gannih was a "very religious young guy." Suhod and Muslims in Isabela are protesting Biel's plan to demolish a mosque in the city.

Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Meningo scare in Ozamiz

WAG MAGPA-TXT-SCARE!

OZAMIZ CITY—The death of a 2-year-old boy in a hospital here last week has triggered a meningococcemia scare. "All I can say as of now is that it's not (the cause of death)," Dr. Alrick Acosta, medical consultant of the Medina General Hospital, said. For days, text messages have circulated, warning against going to the hospital because of the purported meningococcemia case. Acosta said "naughty texters" could be behind the messages.

Ryan D. Rosauro, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Catanduanes trader robbed

VIRAC, Catanduanes—Two unidentified armed men on Friday held up an animal feeds seller in San Andres town. Police said Marichu Tengonsiang, 40, was aboard a truck of Supra Feeds Enterprises with driver Lito Barba on the way to Virac from Pandan town when the robbers stopped the vehicle near the Codon National High School. The robbers took P100,000 in cash and checks, and a mobile phone from Tengonsiang.

Fernan Gianan, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Robbers preying on Indians fall

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Police arrested two suspected members of a robbery syndicate preying on Indians in Cavite at a checkpoint in Kawit town on Sunday. Jay Ballentos, 37, and his brother Lito, 25, both of La Huerta, Parañaque City, were arrested shortly after they held up money lender Gurdip Singh, 30. The suspects reportedly took P2,000 from Singh. A third suspect eluded arrest.

Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Batangas dad's house ransacked

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Three unidentified men ransacked the house of a councilor of Ibaan, Batangas early Sunday and tied the government official before fleeing. Police said Cesar Marasigan, 49, of Barangay Palindan, Ibaan, was asleep when the men entered his house past midnight. They destroyed the lock of a sliding door to get in. The councilor lost P150,000 in cash and personal belongings.

Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Laguna rural bank heist

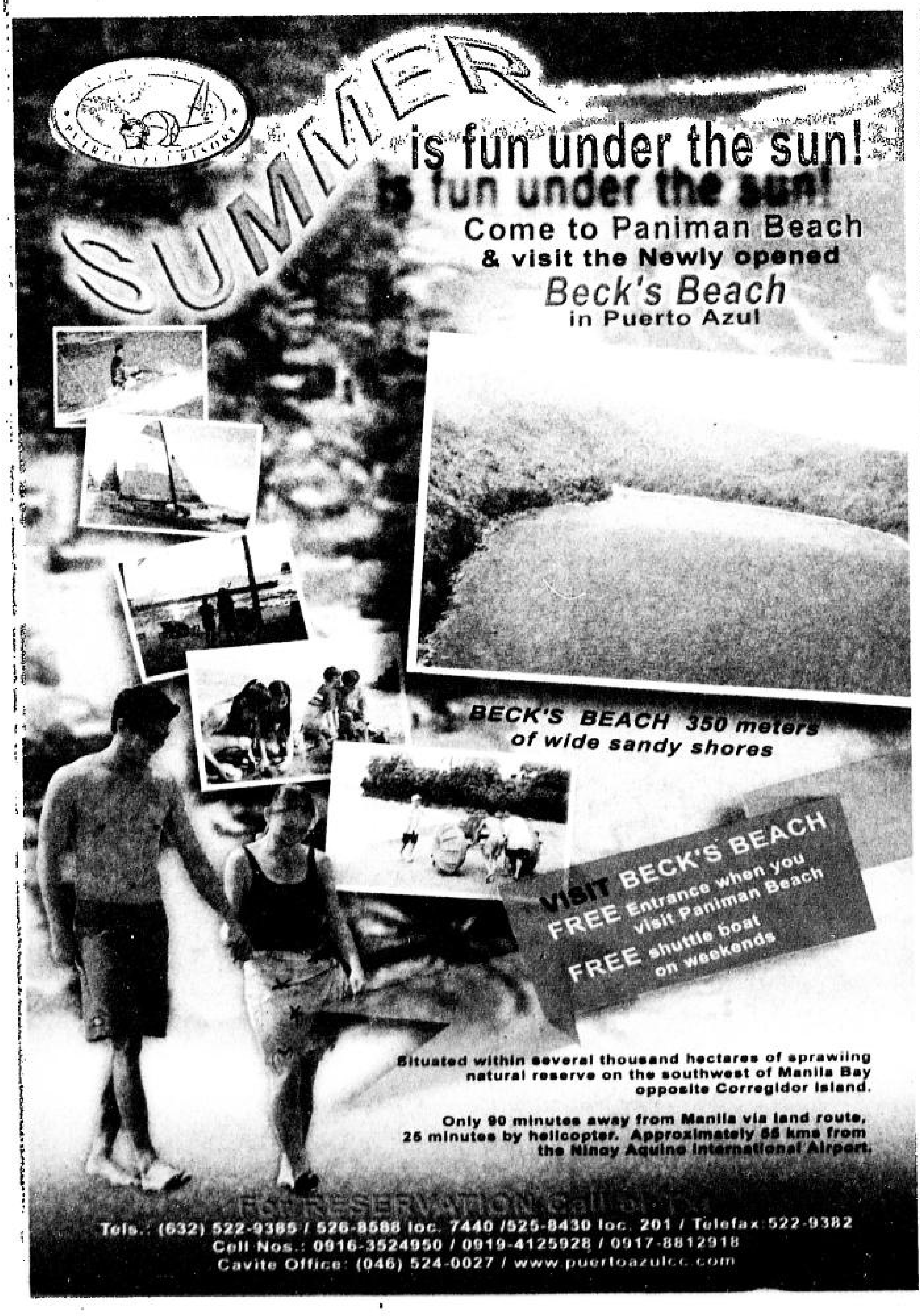
CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Three men and a woman held up a rural bank in San Pedro, Laguna on Tuesday and took an undetermined amount of money. Police said the robbers, posing as bank depositors, entered Plan-Bank in Barangay Landayan, disarmed its lone security guard and ordered two cashiers to open the vault.

Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Militiaman shot dead

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—A member of the Citizens' Armed Forces Geographical Unit (Cafgu) was shot dead in front of a barangay hall in Lian, Batangas on Tuesday. Police identified the victim as Julie Macalalad, 37, and the suspect as Rommel Abastillas, 37. Witnesses rushed Macalalad to the Hospital de San Juan Bautista where he died. The suspect fled on a motorcycle.

Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau



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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The PAGASA, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project.

Name of Project Rental of Photocopying machines, Security and Janitorial Services

Qty/Unit	Brief Description	Approved Budget for the Contract	Contract Duration
Lot 1	Security Services (33 Security Guards)	P 3,946,140.00	May to December 2006
Lot 2	Janitorial Services (39 Janitors)	P 3,416,590.24	May to December 2006
Lot 2	Rental of Photocopying Machines	P 467,000.00	May to December 2006

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be covered by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed as follows:

Activities	Schedule/Time	Venue
1. Issuance of Bid Requirements & Bidding Documents	March 9-22, 2006	General Services Section 3/F PAGASA Central Office Bldg.
2. Pre-bid Conference	March 23, 2006 / 2:00 p.m.	Amihan Conference Room 2/F PAGASA Central Office Bldg.
3. Opening of Eligibility Requirements and Envelope I	April 4, 2006 / 9:00-11:00 a.m.	
4. Opening of Bids – Envelope II	April 4, 2006 / 2:00 p.m.	
5. Bid Evaluation & Post-qualification	April 5-19, 2006	
6. Notice of Award	April 26, 2006	

Interested parties may avail Bid Requirements and Bidding Documents upon payment of a non-refundable fee equivalent to 0.2% of the approved budget per item in no case lower than P500.00 and not more than P1,000.00 to the PAGASA Cashier, upon presentation of this advertisement clipping together with the Company's TIN.

The PAGASA assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by:
(Sgd.) PRISCO D. NILO
Chairman, PAGASA BAC

(March 9 & 16, 2006)

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Cops hit wrong target

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

SEVEN TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT Group (TMG) operatives were relieved yesterday, hours after they fired at a car driven by the vice president of a pharmaceutical firm in what the police said was a case of mistaken identity.

Randolph Clareto, 46, sustained gunshot wounds in his leg and shoulder after police fired at his silver Toyota Vios in Pasig City a few minutes after midnight yesterday.

"It was a miracle I survived. They were determined to kill whoever was inside the car," he said in radio interviews.

TMG Chief Supt. Augusto Angcanan identified the operatives as SPO2 Jaime de Guzman, SPO1 Joseph Martin, PO3 Jerry Atancio, PO2 Raxciel Naprato, PO2 Reynaldo Pedagrosa, PO2 Marcelino Dacoylo and PO1 Arthur Olosan.

"This is really a very unfortunate incident. The ones that conducted the road block have been disarmed, and their firearms subjected to a ballistic exam," said Senior Supt. Samuel Pagdilao Jr., Philippine National Police spokesperson. Police said the TMG operatives were running after fleeing suspected car thieves. The chase, which began in Quezon City Tuesday night, reached Lanuza Street in Barangay Ugong, Pasig City, shortly after midnight yesterday.

Clareto, who was on his way home to Barangay Pinagbuhatan, was passing by the street at about the same time when the TMG operatives fired on his car. "They started to fire indiscriminately. They did not even flag me down," he told radio station dzBB.

Clareto said the shots were all concentrated on his side, shattering the window and hurling glass shards all over him. He said he continued to drive, keeping his head bowed. To his surprise, the armed men no longer followed him. Clareto stopped at a gasoline station and saw his headboard "had three bullets." Wounded and his tires running flat, he managed to drive to the Rizal Medical Center for treatment.

The TMG operatives, it later turned out, were after a group of car thieves onboard a silver Toyota Altis. Police later found the Altis which had been abandoned on Lanuza Street near corner C5.

The car thieves, it turned out, had commandeered a Mitsubishi Galant driven by Brian Raymundo, to elude the police.

Raymundo said the suspects left him with his car when they reached Leveriza Street in Pasay City, near De La Salle University.

With Luige A. del Puerto

Gov't serious in smuggling campaign

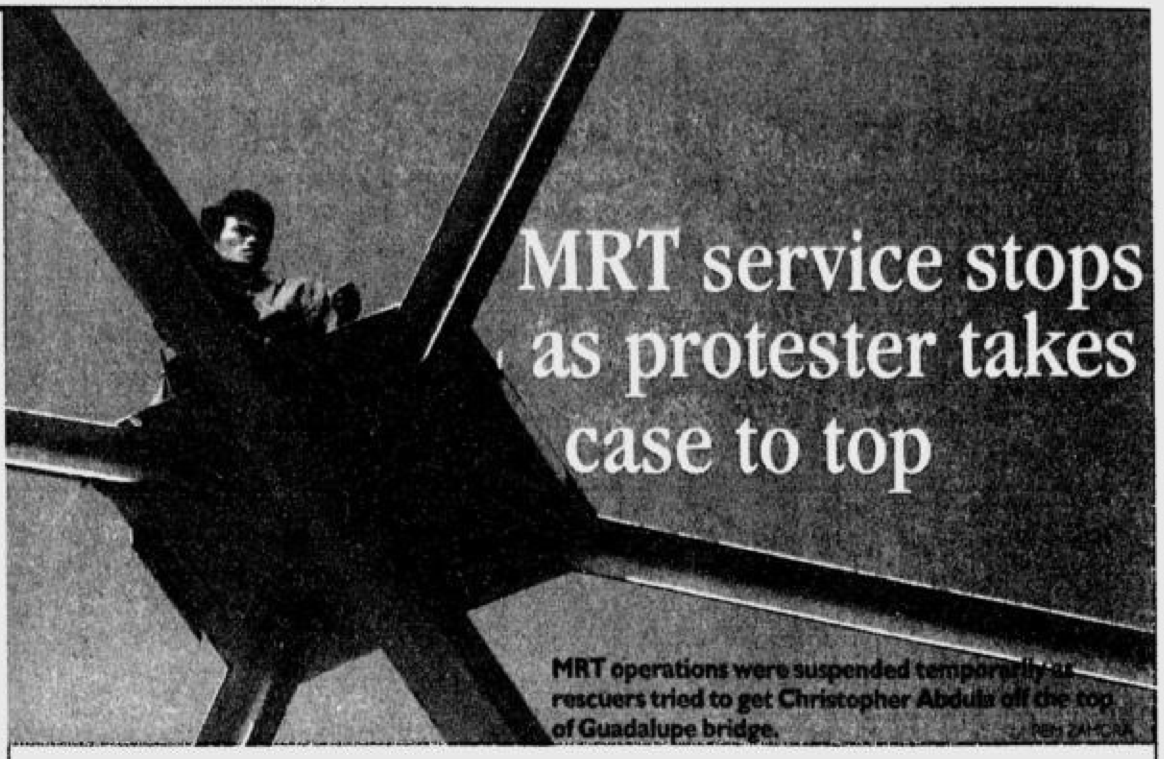
ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

AT LAST, THE GOVERNMENT has shown earnestness in its anti-smuggling campaign by arresting an alleged smuggler, Samuel Lee. The police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) arrested Lee upon his arrival from Hong Kong and charged him with violation of the customs and Tariff Code. The CIDG also charged Lee with attempted bribery after he offered a P300,000 bribe to the arresting team. The Quezon City Prosecutor's Office, however, recommended Lee's release.

Whether he was released or not is not important. What is important is that Lee, considered untouchable at the piers and the customs zone, was taken in custody. His arrest sent a message to smugglers who love to drop the names of prominent persons that their illegal activities must stop. Lee and his associates, the siblings Vicky and Tom Toh, have deprived the government of billions of pesos by undervaluing their shipments or making an outright "swing," the Bureau of Customs (BOC) term for taking out cargo without paying duties and taxes. Despite the exposé in this space, Lee and other smugglers still engaged in "swing." My exposé has alienated me from the person whose friendship I value most. But between my personal feelings and my profession, I will choose the latter. Friends come and go but I will be in my profession for life.

* * *

Because of the drive against smuggling, the BOC has collected more revenues in the first two months of this year than in the same period last year.



MRT service stops as protester takes case to top

MRT operations were suspended temporarily as rescuers tried to get Christopher Abdula off the top of Guadalupe bridge. REM ZAMORA

By Daxim L. Lucas and Tarra V. Quismundo

THE METRO RAIL TRANSIT Corp. will review security measures in all its facilities to prevent a repeat of yesterday's incident in which a popcorn vendor disrupted rail service for 40 minutes.

In a telephone interview, MRT-3 public information officer Ronilo Bacolod said they will focus on eliminating "security gaps" which allowed Christopher Abdula to scale a concrete column supporting the train system's rails above the Guadalupe bridge in Makati City.

MRT operations were halted for 40 minutes as engineers cut power to the overhead electrical lines, while rescuers and firemen attempted to secure Abdula.

The 31-year-old vendor, a Mandaluyong City resident, had climbed up the bridge at a few minutes after 7 a.m. to protest the seizure of his cart by enforcers of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA).

Abdula carried a placard with the message, "*Hirap na hirap na kami, patuloy kaming binabagsak* (Life is already so hard but they keep on bringing us down)."

With five children to feed, Abdula was apparently frustrated that his cart and goods had been seized at least four times by MMDA enforcers, he added.

More than two hours later, Abdula willingly went down the steel bridge.

He was taken to the National Center for Mental Health in Mandaluyong to undergo psychiatric evaluation, rescuers said.

'Village' tenant held for cabbie slay

By Jocelyn R. Uy

A RESIDENT OF AN EXCLUSIVE village in Muntinlupa City has been charged with robbery and homicide for allegedly killing a cab driver in his own turf. Javier Gallent, 38, was arrested on Monday on Merville Street, Parañaque City, after leading policemen on a two-hour chase, city police chief Supt. Roberto Rongavilla said. Watchmen at Alabang Hills Village, where Gallent lives, said the suspect entered the subdivision on Sunday on board a taxi driven by Aloreto Dinobo. The guards later found Dinobo's body in a vacant lot near Gallent's house. He had been shot once in the nape. The suspect, however, claimed that he left for a friend's house after the taxi driver had dropped him off at his home.

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TO INFORMED READERS

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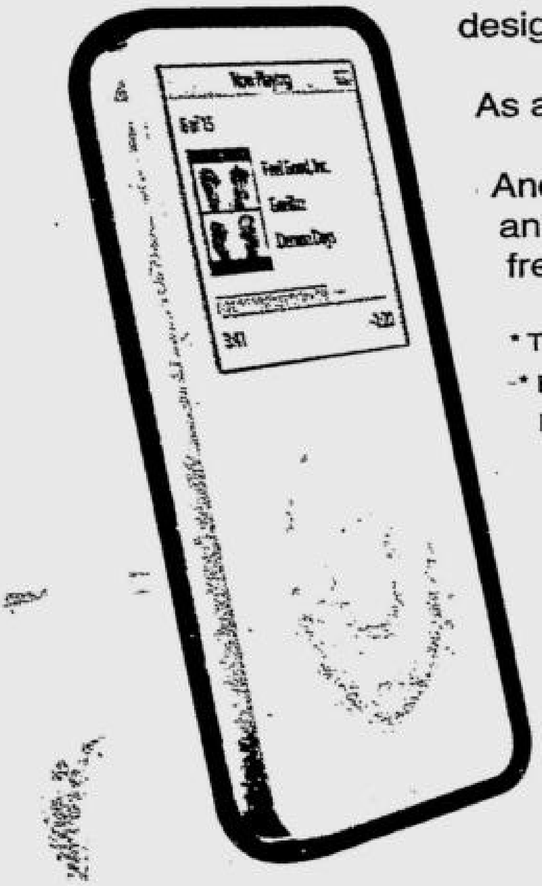

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Pacquiao should fight Morales first—Roach

ERIK MORALES FIRST, THEN, PERHAPS, Marco Antonio Barrera.

Renowned trainer Freddie Roach declared this yesterday just hours after World Boxing Council super featherweight champ Marco Antonio Barrera issued a challenge to Filipino superstar Manny Pacquiao.

ROACH

Roach, in an interview with leading website Boxingtalk, indicated his displeasure over the timing of Barrera's dare, and even went farther as to say Barrera wants Pacquiao's place at the top.

"Right now Barrera wants to be where Manny is, and that's on top. We have to give Erik Morales his opportunity as the contract states," Roach said, referring to the Sept. 16 third match between Pacquiao and Morales which was part of the contract they signed before their rematch last Jan. 21.

"If Erik chooses not to fight Manny then perhaps we look at Barrera," he added.

Roach also said there had been offers for Barrera to fight Pacquiao in the past for a grudge rematch, but the Mexican always had a reason not to fight.

"Before Manny was where he is now, every time we tried to get a fight with Barrera, there was always a reason they didn't want the fight," Roach told Boxingtalk.

The Filipino had earlier stopped Barrera in the 11th round of a non-title match in November 2003.

Pacquiao is set to return to the country on March 12 from a vacation in Hong Kong together with his family. *Salven L. Lagumbay, contributor*

P'foods wins as Yap shines

GAMES TOMORROW (*Araneta Coliseum*)
4:40 p.m.—Sta. Lucia Realty vs Purefoods
7:35 p.m.—Talk 'N Text vs Barangay Ginebra

By June Navarro

JAMES YAP FIRED A CAREER-HIGH 34 points to propel Purefoods Chunkee to a conference-opening 104-88 victory over Sta. Lucia Realty last night in the Gran Matador Brandy-PBA Philippine Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

Criticized for a missed layup in the dying seconds of last conference's Finals series, Yap acquitted himself by going 14 of 21 from the field, including 11 points in the third period that opened up an 81-62 spread for the Giants.

"He (Yap) responded to my challenge for him to score more," said Purefoods coach Ryan Gregorio. "This is his best game as a PBA player."

Yap muffed the shot that could have changed the complexion of the Giants' championship fate with 11 seconds left against Red Bull in the finale of their Fiesta Conference Finals series.

Memories of that Game 6 disaster were wiped out partly because of Yap's breakout game and the Giants' confidence in running the break.

"We could be the smallest team in the league but the good thing about it is we readily recognize our weakness," said Gregorio. "We cannot battle other teams in a half-court game. We don't have the size so at least we should be quicker."

In the second game, Mark Caguioa had 39 points, shooting 17 of 23 from the field, to lead Barangay Ginebra to a 98-81 rout of Talk 'N Text.

Three other Kings provided solid numbers with Eric Menk chipping in 16 points and 16 rebounds, Rommel Adducul contributing 15 and 14 and Mike Holper adding 10 and nine boards.

The scores:

First Game

PUREFOODS 104—Yap 34, Raymundo 18, Pingris 17, Limpot 12, Artadi 8, Yee 4, Castillo 4, Tejada 3, Billones 2, Yap R. 2, Evangelista 0.

STA. LUCIA 88—Espino 31, Tolomia 15, Duremdes 13, Cabagnot 10, Omolon 5, Demape 5, Mendoza 3, Calli 2, Aquino 2, Gonzales 2, Calimag 0, Agapito 0.

Quarters: 29-24, 49033, 81-62, 104-88.

Second Game

GINEBRA 98—Caguioa 39, Menk 16, Adducul 14, Holper 10, Helterbrand 8, Ferreria 7, Santos 4, Macapagal 0, Sotto 0, Dimaunahan 0.

TALK 'N TEXT 81—Miller 25, Taulava 17, Cardona 12, Carey 10, Ferriols 4, Alapag 4, Pablo 4, Villoria 2, Meneses 2, Avenido 1, Juinio 0.

Quarters: 19-19, 39-33, 71-56, 98-81

Austria returns to PBL

By Jasmine W. Payo

GEARING UP FOR A SMOOTH TRANSITION to the pro league, Rain or Shine yesterday appointed Leo Austria as head coach of its final amateur run in the Philippine Basketball League.

"I'm really honored with the trust given me," said Austria, who will also serve as lead tactician of Welcoat Paints, which will be the franchise's banner name when it debuts in the Philippine Basketball Association this October.

Rain or Shine will be shooting for its seventh title when it plays its last conference in the Unity Cup starting March 25.

"I'll do everything in my capacity to give the team a fitting farewell in the league," noted Austria.

The 47-year-old mentor replaced Caloy Garcia, who agreed to step down as his assistant.

Austria is no stranger to the squad, having called the shots for the Painters from 2001 to 2004, which included a championship run in the 2003 Challenge Cup.

In 2004, Austria relinquished his post to Garcia, also his assistant then, when he joined Shell as its head coach in the PBA.

Austria returned to Welcoat as head of basketball operations after Shell disbanded late last year.

But it would be a juggling act for Austria. Last November, Adamson University also tapped Austria to coach the Falcons in the coming UAAP season.

While Austria tries to wrap up Rain or Shine's PBL campaign, he will also be rebuilding a struggling collegiate team and forming a competitive pro squad.

Tierro clinches Delhi slot

By Dennis U. Eroa
Libre sports editor

TIERRO

PATRICK JOHN TIERRO, the country' top netter, frustrated local hope Vardhan Vishun, 3-6, 6-3, 6-3, in the first round of the India Association of Tennis Professionals/International Tennis Federation Satellite recently in New Delhi.

The win enabled the 20-year-old Tierro to clinch a slot in the $25,000 New Delhi Masters slated next week.

Tierro's second round foe is Manuel Jorquera of Italy in the round of 16. Jorquera is No. 600 in the world.

Win or lose, Tierro is now assured of getting ATP points which should enable the Filipino Davis Cupper to crack the world's top 1,000 list.

To make it to the main draw, Tierro, who trains under Beeyong Sison at the Subic Bay International Tennis Center, had to survive Indians Vijit Sehgal, 6-1, 6-2, and Dipesh Rao, 6-4, 7-6 (5), in the qualifying.

Among those competing in the tournament are world No. 373 and top seed Alexey Kedriouk of Kazakhstan, second seed and world No. 435 Herbert Wiltschnig of Austria and his compatriot Philipp Mullner, who is the fourth seed with an ATP ranking of 476. Local bet Vishal Uppal of India (ATP No. 522) is the fourth seed.

The 6-foot-1 Tierro won a gold medal as part of the men's team in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games last December.

Tierro has now qualified to the Masters of all three ATP/TIF Satellite events he has joined since 2004.

Backed up by Cebuana Lhuillier sportsman-businessman Jean Henri Lhuillier and Philta president Manuel Misa, Tierro's campaign is part of the five-year developmental plan mapped out by Sison.

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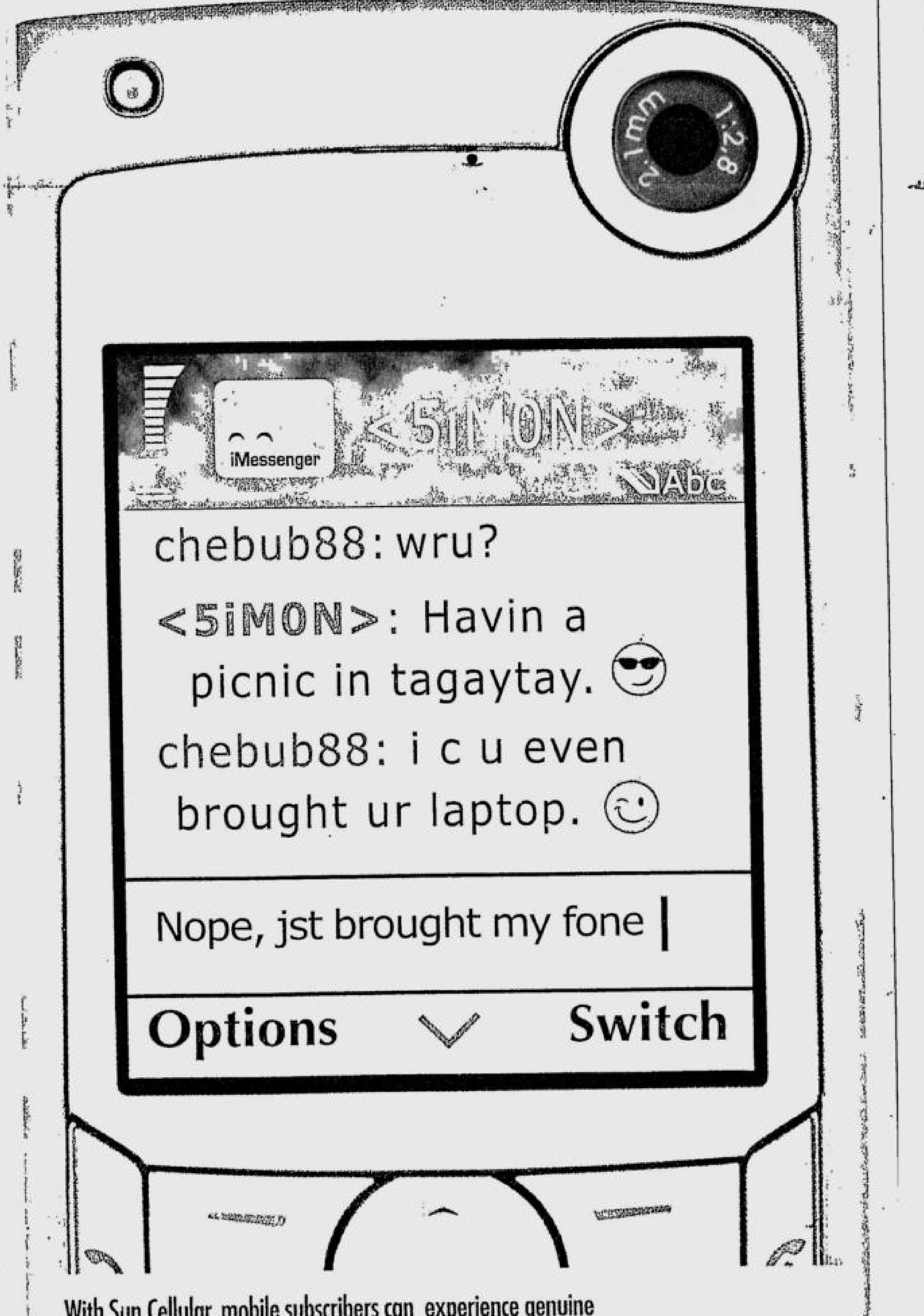

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Pacquiao named Boxer of the Year

BOXING ICON MANNY PACQUIAO heads Filipino world and international titleholders in the Elorde Banquet of Champions during the 6th Gabriel "Flash" Elorde Memorial Awards set March 25 at the Dusit Hotel Nikko.

Pacquiao, whose win over Hector Velasquez in September last year gave him worldwide fame, will receive the Boxer of the Year award for the fifth time.

The Elorde Memorial Awards is presented by Johnny Elorde Management International and the Gabriel "Flash" Elorde Foundation.

The Elorde clan, led by Elorde's wife, Laura, will be on hand to present the various awards. Daughter-in-law Liza Elorde is overseeing the event honoring the former world champion.

The event is sponsored by Philippine Amusements and Gaming Corp., Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Family Rubbing Alcohol, Smart, San Miguel Corp., Casa Belrina Travel, Johnson & Johnson, Bai & Mig Party Favors and Elorde Sports Center.

PACQUIAO

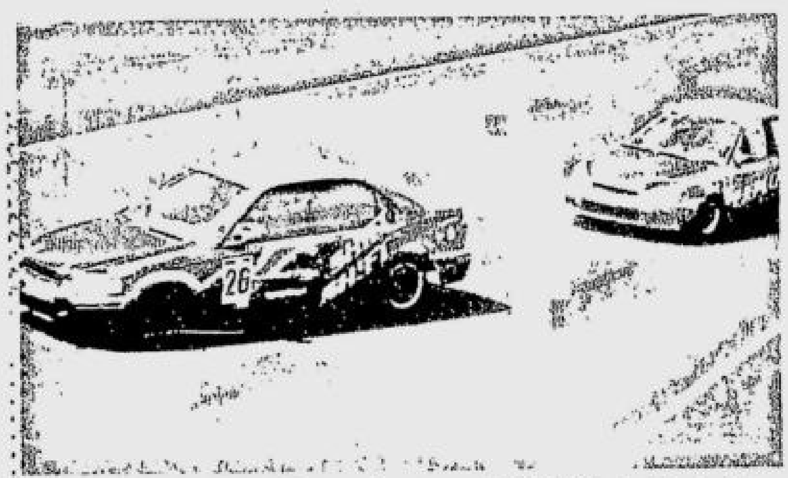
Arrows level with Doves

THE ARELLANO UNIVERSITY FLAming Arrows thwarted the St. Francis of Assisi Doves, 81-76, yesterday to force a deciding Game 3 for the 13th National Capital Region Athletic Association men's basketball tournament championship.

Alfie Martinez hit a layup with 15.7 seconds left, allowing the Flaming Arrows to stay out of trouble and even their series with the Doves at 1-1.

Martinez's basket gave the Flaming Arrows a seven-point cushion at 80-73 and frustrated the Doves' bid to clinch the crown outright via a 2-0 sweep.

Meanwhile, the Olivarez College Sea Lion Cubs weathered the Arellano Baby Arrows' repeated attacks and came away with a 57-55 verdict which gave them the NCRAA junior crown.



RENAN Morales (Car 26) struggles to ward off Uly Maninding in the morning race. But his consistency eventually rewarded Morales with a sweep and the Group 3 crown of the recent Philippine Touring Car Championship 2005.

Morales rules Group 3

SUBIC—RENAN MORALES OF Shift Racing pulled off a sweep and ruled Group 3 recently in the Philippine Touring Car Championship 2005 at the Subic International Raceway.

Morales posted the fastest laptime of 1:24.83 to pull away early from the pack en route to his victory in the event sanctioned by the governing Automobile Association of the Philippines.

He won 10 of the 12 races for a total of 272 points. In the coming season late April, he will be elevated to the Group 1 category along with the bigwigs like Jody Coseteng, Kookie and Louis Ramirez.

Budget approval key for Palaro 06

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE PALARONG PAMBANSA IN NAGA CITY IN Bicol this May is in danger of being scrapped unless the 2006 national budget is approved.

The expenses for staging the Palaro, estimated to be from P20 million to P50 million, are embodied in the budget proposal of the organizing Department of Education which is now being tackled by Congress.

Rep. Monico Puentevella, one of the proponents of an increased budget in sports, said everything depends on the bicameral hearing late this month.

The Palaro, featuring high school and elementary athletes from the public schools, has a long history of getting shelved due to monetary constraints. The event was shelved the last time in 2002 when the money, coming from then organizer Philippine Sports Commission, was diverted to the country's campaign in the Busan Asian Games.

Puentevella said he discussed the Palaro budget this year during a meeting with DepEd Secretary Fe Hidalgo two weeks ago and again in Congress last Monday.

"It (the Palaro) is in their proposed budget being presented in Congress now," said Puentevella. "If we pass the new budget it's included there. Depends when we approve it. But I'm optimistic we'll pass the new budget with the support of the Senate."

Palaro regional coordinator Len Toledo expressed confidence the event would be held this year because there's no need to spend on infrastructure as the Naga City Sports Complex has been kept in good shape.

He also noted that the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. spent for the 2005 Palaro in Iloilo last year and this could be done again this year.

The PSC itself is bracing for harder times with the Department of Budget and Management proposing only a P28 million budget this year.

Paragua-Dableo title showdown

SAN FERNANDO CITY, LA UNION—Grandmaster Mark Paragua beat defending champion GM Joey Antonio, 1.5-0.5, Wednesday to arrange a title clash with bosom buddy International Master Ronald Dableo in the fifth La Union Open Chess Championships at the Diego Silang Hall of the La Union Provincial Capitol Building here.

The top-seeded Paragua downed Antonio after 43 moves of a Reti Opening in Game 1 and settled for the needed draw in Game 2 after 51 moves of a Sicilian Defense to post a 1.5-0.5 victory.

Dableo, on the other hand, bested IM Richard Bitton, 3-2. He beat Bitoon in Game 1 after 34 moves of an English Opening, but yielded Game 2 after 46 pushes of a French Duel. The 1-1 tie in the standard format forced a tie breaker in the blitz format.

Bitoon took a 1-0 lead in the seven minutes plus three seconds increment playoff, but Dableo rebounded by taking Game 2.

Dableo, head coach of University of Sto. Tomas, won the toss coin and choose the white pieces for the last tie breaker which he won. *NM Marlon Bernardino*

What else is new?

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

I READ IN THE PAPERS THAT IT'S ABS-CBN and not Solar that will air Manny Pacquiao's next fight. I also read that Manny Pacquiao will now promote his next fight himself, having reportedly fired his US promoter, Gary Shaw.

If all that is true, well, what can I say?

Nothing's new there.

Old crap.

New faces, new facts.

New players, new fakers.

In short, what else is new?

It happens all the time, didn't I tell you?

How many managers has Manny Pacquiao dumped? Three? Four? Well, there's Polding Correa and Bebot Elorde. You want some more? Rod Nazario. Murad Muhammad.

In boxing, the guy next to you can go anytime. Hardly do you see lasting friendships here. Emotions are non-existent, only egos. Only in the movies you see such things, such poignant scenes, happening, as in the films "The Cinderalla Man" and "A Million Dollar Baby."

In boxing, anything can happen. What's said now, what's agreed upon today can change in a day or two. There's nothing solid in boxing, only the color of money. It is only in this sport that relationships and agreements are shattered faster than Olympic swim records.

In boxing, enemies you sleep with are a dime a dozen. They crawl like rats in the dark, attacking with ferocity at the slightest opportunity. Or have you forgotten what Jimmy Cannon said: "Boxing is the red light district of sports."

Boxers are a special breed in that they change managers faster than Maria Sharapova changes clothes.

Pacquiao dumping Correa for Nazario and, later, dropping Nazario for an American oddly named Shelley Finkel.

Z Gorres leaving his discoverer, protector and "father," Rudy Salud, after just one trip to America.

Prince Gabi deserting Gov. Piñol, his benefactor for years, for yet another American manager.

And yes, who can forget Luisito Espinosa going to Joe Koizumi after being with Hermie Rivera since his teenage days?

And now this, Pacquiao brushing aside Solar Sports, which had aired his last four fights, in favor of ABS-CBN.

Oh, well, don't tell me it isn't true. It's true because boxing is not totally peopled by heroes but more by pimps.

And I'm just being honest when I say that.

* * *

KEEP ON PUNCHIN', RUDY. Am I glad Rudy Salud, the most colorful PBA commissioner since Leo Prieto, is fast recovering from a seven-hour heart surgery a while back. Twice he has been confined at the ICU. Thank God Rudy is now out of danger and is recuperating at home. See you soon, *Pareng Mama*? I miss our coffee sessions at Dulcinea along T. Morato in Quezon City.

* * *

I'm looking forward to covering the 7th Jaguar/Land Rover Golf Invitation at Sta. Elena on March 15-17. The tournament is unique in that it is the only golf invitational in the country that runs for three days, and ranks among its participants some of the most prominent and accomplished personalities in Philippine society.

I look forward to meeting again Willie Soong, Mr. Jaguarman himself who's the brains behind the event (who else?). Willie has always been a delight to be with, not only on the fairways but off it, for his wit and charisma and conversations filled with warmth.

Look what awaits the team champion in this tournament: A stint in the 23rd Jaguar World Golf Finals in Gleneagles, Scotland, on June 11-16, 2006, where they will compete against other champion teams from the various Jaguar dealerships around the world.

I'm buying a lotto ticket now. I need a Jaguar to qualify me to join the tournament.

* * *

FASTBREAK. Belated happy birthday (yesterday, March 8) to Robert "The Big J" Jaworski and Dr. Filemon del Carmen. Who doesn't know The Big J? Dr. Del Carmen is the 83-year-old father of Daboy, my esteemed dentist-golfmate. Cheers!

SPORTSWATCH

CDO Rapids tangle with Iligan

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—THE MINDANAO VISAYAS BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION (MVBA) resumes today with the host Cagayan de Oro Rapids of Mayor Vicente "Dongkoy" Y. Emano making their season debut versus league leader Iligan City of Mayor Lawrence L. Cruz at the Xavier University Gym. Gametime is at 5:30 p.m. with a huge hometown crowd expected to support the Rapids in this event backed up by ML Kwarta Padala, Panasonic and Nature's Spring Drinking Water. Rapids coach Edgardo Dacoco will lean on team captain Mark Apepe, Ranilo Nunez, Restycel Getubig and Rocky Sanchez to put a stain on Iligan City's clean 2-0 slate. Apepe averages 23.8 points while Nunez and Getubig delivered 22.3 and 16 points, respectively, during the MVBA pre-season games.

Arcilla, Anasta in Kobe Gakuin Cup

NATIONAL PLAYER JOHNNY ARCILLA AND ELBERT ANASTA DOWNED SEPArate rivals yesterday to enter the semifinals of the 2006 Kobe Gakuin Cup Invitational Tennis event at the Ayala Alabang Tennis Club. Arcilla downed Fuyuki Ogawa, 6-3, 6-1, while Anasta routed Junpei Okabe, 6-2, 6-1, to remain unbeaten. Chiemel Mantua defeated Masaki Kawazu, 6-3, 6-3. Rocky Paglalunan and Dodong Rubillar also won to improve to 5-1. Paglalunan beat Shimpei Moriguchi, 6-3, 6-1, and Rubillar outplayed Naoki Miyake, 7-5, 6-3. Gilbert Estrada beat Shohei Maruyama, 6-3, 6-2, and Jaime Solon stopped Masaya Taira, 6-3, 6-2.

Infusion basketball boosts Spalding

IN DEVELOPING THE INFUSION, THE FIRST EVER BASKETBALL WITH A BUILT-in micro pump, Spalding—the world's leading basketball maker—literally relied on rocket science in making the cutting edge in basketball technology. Dan Touhey, vice president of marketing, said his research and development team tapped a former Nasa engineer in Spalding's golf product division, which controlled brands such as Top-Flite golf balls and Ben Hogan clubs. Proline Sports Center, the exclusive distributor of Spalding NBA basketball in the Philippines, expects the Spalding Infusion to be a continuous hit in Metro Manila.

Largahan derby weigh-in tomorrow

COCKERS AND BREEDERS MUST SUBMIT THEIR ENTRIES FROM 9 A.M. TO 9 p.m. tomorrow in connection with Roligon Mega Cockpit's Largahan 5-cock derby. Apart from the guaranteed prize of P2 million, a brand new Toyota Vios, now on display at Roligon lobby, will be given to the fastest win champion, said host Rolly Ligon. Over 100 entries are set to compete on Saturday's opening round (2-cock) which will start at 2 p.m. Other elimination rounds are scheduled on March 14 and 16. Qualifiers will face off on March 18 for the title. Entry fee is P4,400. For inquiries, contact 851-2275, 833-1638 and 852-9812.

RACING TIPS

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Bunker Buster (3), Earth Wind N' Fire (5), Dona Gelay (2), Sweet Felicity (1)
Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—St. Jek-Jek (1), Hukom (5), He's So Lucky (4), Silver Music (7)
Race 3—(Penta/Tri)—Summer Rain (9), High Spirit (1), King Of Africa (10), Classy Pages (3), Detective Daryll (5)
Race 4—(Qrt/Tri)—Ghurka (2), Hazmagic (4), Sweet Connection (6), Virginia (5)
Race 5—(Penta/Tri)— Leading Man (2), The Strategist (6), Magic Bullet (3), Habagat (9), Gentleman's Lady (4)

BY TOP CHOICE

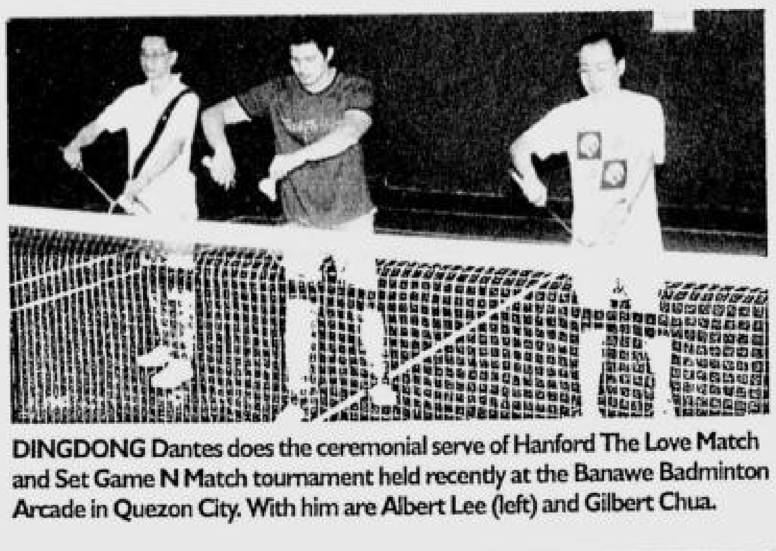
Race 6—(Qrt/Tri)—My Little Pet (6), Pasirit (8), Magic Ewan Ko (7), Tony's Secret (5)
Race 7—(Penta/Tri)—Time Enchanted/Medal's Time (5), Strong Colony (9), Ravishing Raffy (4), El Love Señora (3), Valentine Dancer (6)
Race 8—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Kawiliwili (8), Magiliw (10), Samahan (3), Sir Olizon (9), Express Strike (1), Decidido (6)

Dimarucot-Villanueva tops doubles

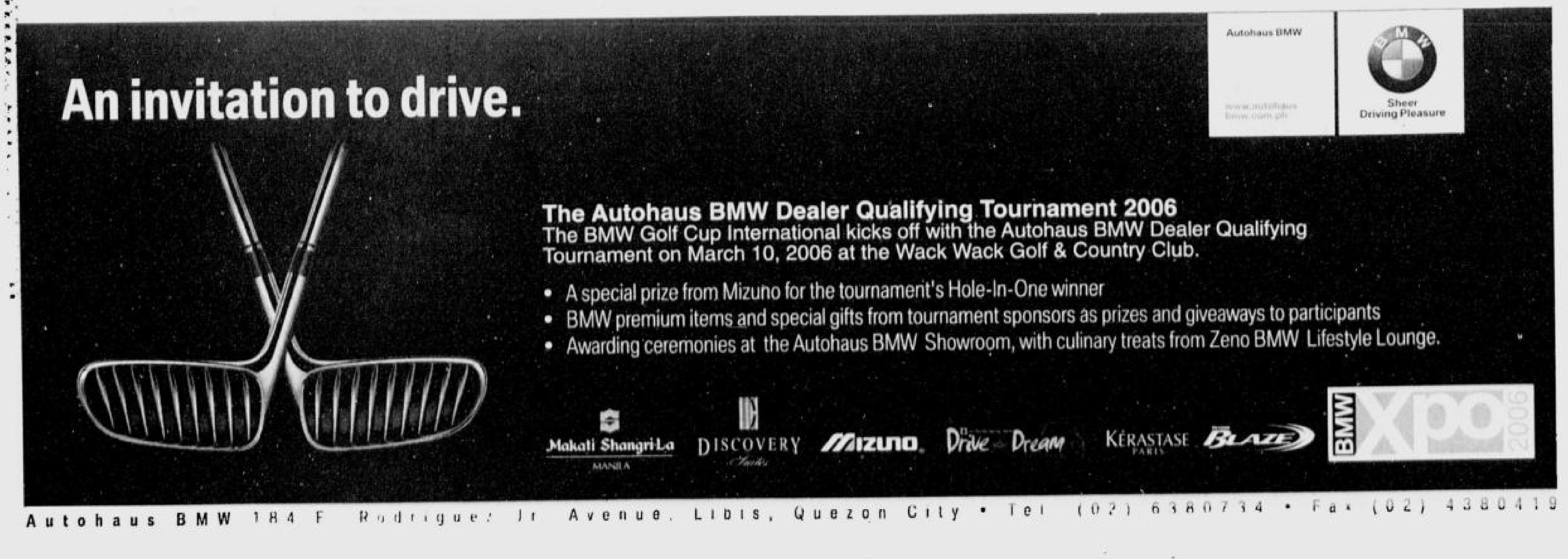
DENDEN DIMARUCOT AND GABRIEL VILLANUEva topped the men's doubles level A to lead other winners in the recent Hanford The Love Match and Set Game N Match badminton tournament at the Banawe Badminton Arcade in Quezon City.

The other champions were Justin Reyes and Sammy Ong (level B); Dennis Go and Rey Magallanes (level C); Alejandro Dvencola and James Logan (level D); Carlo Remo and Kevin Suarez (level E); Wilmer Frias and Gerelyn Glico (mixed doubles level A); Rommel Parone and Christian Balita (level B); Andrew and Ruby Castillo (level C); Froilan Tadeo and Maricel Morales (level D); and Ricardo Sunga and Gie Gutierez (level E).

Movie and television actor Dingdong Dantes, who also plays badminton and is an image model/endorser of Hanford, did the ceremonial serve with Albert Lee, managing director of Banawe Badminton Arcade; and Gilbert Chua, CEO of Capsmaker Inc., the exclusive distributor of Fleet Rackets and Shuttlecocks in the Philippines. The two-day tourney attracted 248 bets. Fleet Rackets and Shuttlecocks, Visual Impact Productions Ads Co., National Manufacturing and Industrial Product Corp., Philstone Industrial and Manufacturing Corp., Archangel's Collection, Bobson, BSI Medicated Spray, Second Edition, GU Engineering, Badminton Phils., Classique and Han Lee restaurant supported the event.



DINGDONG Dantes does the ceremonial serve of Hanford The Love Match and Set Game N Match tournament held recently at the Banawe Badminton Arcade in Quezon City. With him are Albert Lee (left) and Gilbert Chua.



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WORLD BASEBALL CLASSIC

US trips Mexico; Puerto Rico, D. Republic score

PHOENIX—DERREK LEE AND CHIPPER Jones homered, Jake Peavy and six US relievers combined on a four-hitter and the United States beat Mexico 2-0 Tuesday.

Lee connected off starter Rodrigo Lopez and Jones homered on the first pitch he saw in the tournament—off Oscar Villarreal in the seventh.

That was plenty of offense for the pitching-rich United States team.

Peavy allowed one hit—an infield single by Karim Garcia to start the game. The 24-year-old San Diego Padres right-hander struck out three, throwing just 23 pitches.

Mike Timlin, Chad Cordero, Dan Wheeler, Todd Jones, Joe Nathan and Brad Lidge each threw an inning of relief for the US squad, which has 11 relievers on its roster.

The US pitchers combined for nine strikeouts and no walks, shutting out Mexico in 2 hours, 6 minutes.

In Kissimmee, Florida, David Ortiz and Adrian Beltre each homered twice, leading the powerful Dominican Republic to an 11-5 victory over Venezuela in the opening game of Pool D, a tough grouping that also includes Australia and Italy.

Bartolo Colon, the 2005 American League Cy Young pitching award winner for the Los Angeles Angels, pitched three scoreless innings for the win before leaving after 50 pitches—well below the opening-round limit of 65.

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, Bernie Williams hit a tiebreaking single, Alex Rios homered and Puerto Rico opened the World Baseball Classic with a 2-1 squeaker over Panama.

Javier Vazquez got help from his bullpen, and Williams' single up the middle scored Alex Cintron in the fifth inning to put Puerto Rico ahead before a home crowd of more than 19,000 at Hiram Bithorn Stadium.

AP

NBC welcomes Pangasinan

NBC PRESIDENT Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla (third from left) and Alaminos City Mayor Hernani Braganza shake hands after the contract signing joined by other Pangasinan and NBC officials.

NATIONAL BASKETBALL CONFERENCE (NBC) president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla officially welcomed Pangasinan-Hundred Islands recently at the Philippine Columbian Association clubhouse.

"We are very happy that your province has put up a team for this year's NBC tournament," Padilla told Congressman Mark Cojuangco, Amado Espino and Conrad Estrella, Alaminos City Mayor Nani Braganza, Dagupan Vice Mayor Alvin Fernandez and engineer Rosendo So after the contract signing.

Padilla said Pangasinan's entry is a big boost to the credibility of NBC, which has been promoting regional basketball for three years now.

Mayor Braganza, who initiated the move to join NBC, is optimistic that the expansion Pangasinan squad will be able to make a big impact in its first season.

"Pangasinan has produced a lot of good players," said Braganza.

Yao keys Rockets' triumph

MINNEAPOLIS—WITH Yao Ming emerging as an offensive force, the Houston Rockets didn't need superstar forward Tracy McGrady on Tuesday.

Yao topped 20 points for the eighth straight game, scoring 30 points and grabbing 13 rebounds to lead the Rockets to a 93-87 victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves.

With McGrady on the bench again with back problems, Yao dominated the paint and Stromile Swift added 11 points and nine boards off the bench for Houston, which used a 12-0 run to start the fourth quarter to get their third straight victory.

"Without McGrady our record is pretty poor," Yao said of the Rockets' 2-13 mark without their star forward. "Before today we only had one. I really feel a lot of pressure because my teammates look to me and my opponent focuses on me, double team a lot, but we're here, there's no way back.

In other games it was: New York 107, Indiana 92; Boston 116, Washington 115, OT; Atlanta 113, Golden State 106; Cleveland 106, Toronto 99; Chicago 95, New Jersey 87; Dallas 93, Portland 87; LA Clippers 98, San Antonio 85.

Kevin Garnett made only six of 17 shots, but scored 15 points and had 21 rebounds for the Timberwolves.

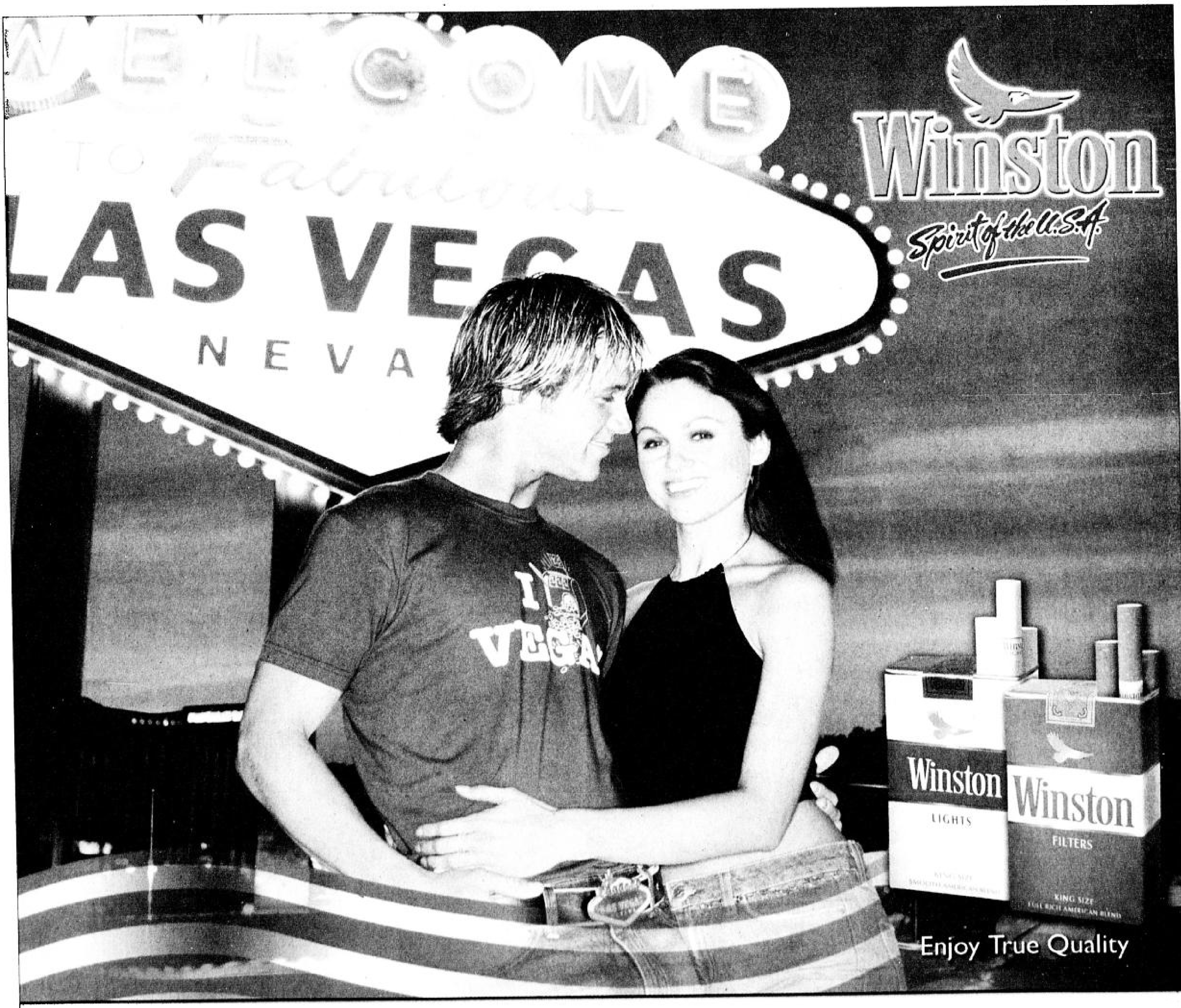
The Rockets again were without McGrady, their leading scorer at 24.6 points a game, after his bothersome back flared up in Sunday's game against Portland.

But Yao more than compensated, extending his career-best streak of 20-plus points in style.

"I know at least in the last five games, to me he's completely dominated," David Wesley said. "Numbers like 29 (points) and 15 (rebounds), 22 and 21, double-doubles every night."

AP

LEBRON James scores on a drive in Cleveland's 106-99 victory over Toronto. REUTERS



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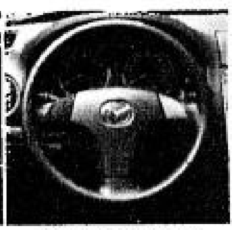
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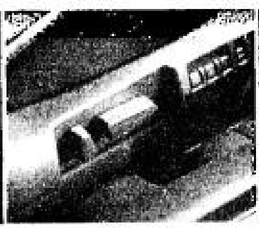
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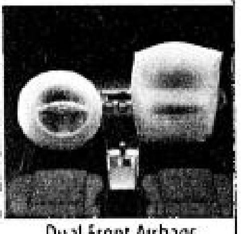
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KATHERINE Luna and Coco Martin in "Masahista"

5 RP films among world's best in '05

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

FOREIGN CRITICS HAVE RANKED five Filipino films among the best movies of 2005.

On the website Senses of Cinema, the titles "Ebolusyon ng Isang Pamilyang Pilipino" by Lav Diaz; "Idol," "Mondomanila: Institute of Poets" and "Ang Pamilyang Kumakain ng Lupa" by Khavn de la Cruz; and "Masahista" by Brillante Mendoza appeared in a poll participated in by respected reviewers and which included such familiar titles as "2046" by Wong Kar Wai, "Brokeback Mountain" by Ang Lee, "A History of Violence" by David Cronenberg and "The New World" by Terrence Malick.

The web site prides itself in being "an online journal devoted to the serious and eclectic discussion of cinema."

The 10-hour "Ebolusyon" was chosen by three contributing critics—Italy's Paolo Bertolin, Austria's Christoph Huber and Germany's Olaf Möller.

Eagerly awaited

Huber of the Vienna Cinémathèque included Lino Brocka's 1974 film "Tinimbang Ka Ngunit Kulang" in a special retrospective list of "15 Discoveries."

Bertolin, a contributor to the newspaper Il Manifesto and the magazine Cineforum, dubbed Diaz's three-hour work-in-

5 RP/ A2-2

Teri Onor stood up by TV pals

By Marinel R. Cruz

"I COULDN'T LOOK AT MY GUESTS IN THE eye. I couldn't tell them that some of the performers weren't showing up."

Comedian Teri Onor was telling INQUIRER Entertainment on Tuesday how he felt when his costars in the GMA 7 sitcom, "Lagot Ka, Isusumbong Kita," failed to turn up for his Feb. 28 show at the Zirkoh Comedy Bar in Quezon City.

Teri said he had invited Richard Gomez, Benjie Paras and Raymart Santiago to drop by for "Lagot Ka, Isusumbong Kita sa Kuya mo," Zirkoh's anniversary presentation.

Richard, Benjie, Raymart and Joey Marquez play Teri's brothers in "Lagot Ka."

"None of them came," Teri said. "Fortunately, the guests did not complain. But the guys phoned me as soon as they heard about the mix up and apologized. They said no one reminded them."

Teri said his manager, Jun Nardo, sent word to Richard, Benjie and Raymart three weeks before the show. "They all said yes. So we included their names in the publicity materials," said Teri.

In the end, it was Jimmy Santos, Jose Manalo and Wally—his co-hosts on the noontime show, "Eat … Bulaga!"—plus Maureen Larazabal and stand-up comic Philip Lazaro "who came to my rescue," Teri said. "I will forever be grateful to them."

TERI: They've apologized. RAFFY LERMA

Another housemate leaves PBB happily

By Nini Valera

WHEN THE PHILIPPINES VOTED and turned in only 13.5 percent of the total votes for "Pinoy Big Brother" celebrity housemate Christian Vasquez, the country was actually rooting for him.

This was how the model/actor from Bacolod saw his eviction from Big Brother's house last weekend, after 29 days—the second housemate to get the boot.

When his nomination was announced a week before the eviction, Christian had asked viewers of the ABS-CBN reality show to decide whether he should stay or leave the house to be with his sons, Ryan and Martin.

"I guess the public wanted me to be reunited with my boys," Christian, 29, told INQUIRER Entertainment on Monday during his exit interview.

The actor is a single father; his wife left several years ago. The boys live with his parents in Ba-

ANOTHER/ A2-2

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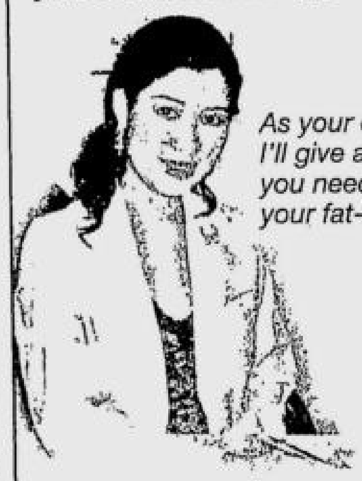

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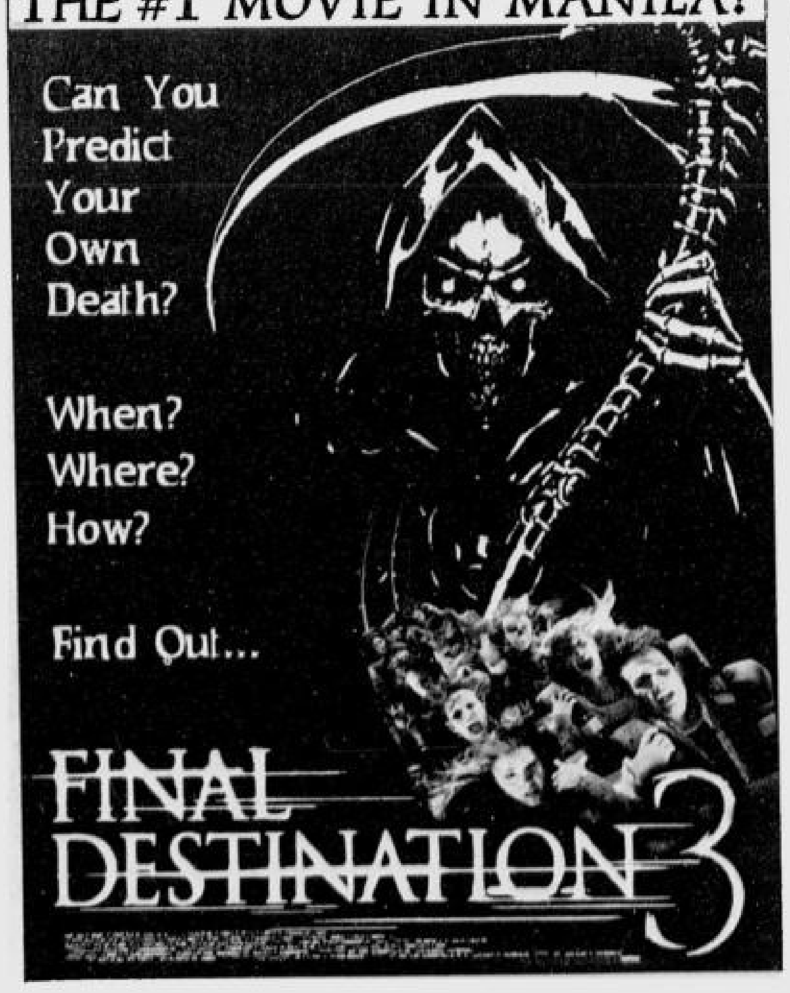
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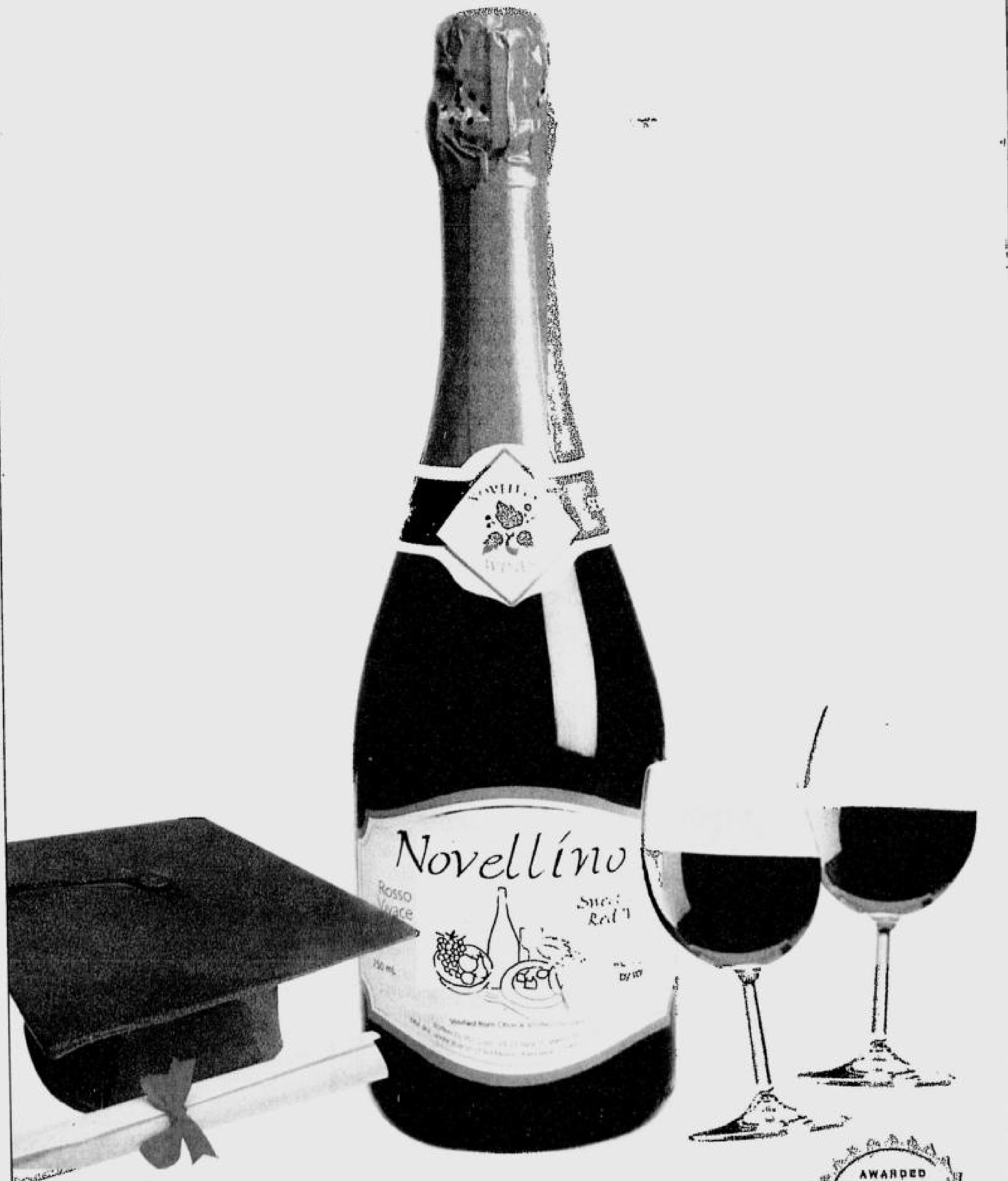

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DID YOU KNOW... "MARCH OF THE PENGUINS," Best Documentary Feature winner in this year's Oscars, will have a Tagalog version to be narrated by Sharon Cuneta and to be released locally by Unitel. Morgan Freeman lent his voice to the English version. Apart from the original French, Luc Jacquet's documentary on emperor penguins also had Chinese, Japanese, Finnish, Italian and Brazilian versions.

5 RP films ...

From page A2-1

progress, "Heremias"—which was previewed in Torino, Italy in November and is slated to premiere in Fribourg, Switzerland this month—as "the most eagerly awaited film of 2006."

Bertolin also included "Masahista" and "Idol" in his list of the year's best.

De la Cruz's two other films were chosen by Brazil's Jorge Didaco ("Mondomanila") and Thailand's Jit Phokaew ("Pamilyang Kumakain").

"It was unexpected," Mendoza said of this latest honor. "A great bonus."

De la Cruz, who first heard the news in Rotterdam, The Netherlands in January, said this renewed interest in Pinoy films is a sign "that the country is slowly going back on the map."

Humbling

From Rotterdam, De la Cruz proceeded to Clermont Serrand, France, where he was a jury member in the laboratory/experimental section last February. He reported that a Filipino short film competed in the narrative section—Pam Miras' "Blood Bank," a Cinemalaya Best Screenplay-Short winner last year.

"It's humbling," Diaz said of the accolade. "This is good for Philippine cinema." It's more than an award, he added, because it meant "that our country is once again being recognized as part of the discourse on world cinema."

The country's presence on the list is made all the more significant, he explained, because it acknowledged "that there is a young and dynamic movement of filmmakers in the country, who are making movies for the aesthetics, not just for entertainment."

Möller wrote in the New York-based Film Comment magazine last year that Lav's "Ebolusyon" is "a labor of love made from the passing of time and echoes reverberating faintly across history's vast plains."

Another housemate leaves PBB house

From page A2-1

VASQUEZ

colod, while he is based in Manila, pursuing his show biz career.

"I had never missed my sons as much as when I was inside the [PBB] house," Christian admitted. "I usually see them only five times a year—Christmas, New Year, and birthdays. I should see them more often."

Ecstatic

The most important thing he learned from his stay, Christian said, was that "I took my freedom for granted when I should have used it to be a better father to my sons."

Dubbed Hunk Daddy in the show, Christian was ecstatic when he left.

"I felt that, among the three of us who were nominated—Rico Robles and Rustom Padilla were the other two—they deserved to stay inside."

Another person who was delighted that Christian is out at last was his manager, Biboy Arboleda.

"I prayed for that," Arboleda confided to INQUIRER Entertainment. "It was a very tense time for me just watching the events inside the house."

Biboy was referring to a period last week when Robin Padilla stormed into the house and confronted Christian who, he thought, had been taunting his brother, Rustom. Prior to that, Rustom had admitted to Keanna Reeves before millions of viewers that he was an abused child and that he was gay.

Annoyed

"At first I did not understand what Robin was saying," Christian said. "But when I told him that I admired his brother very much because of his courage, he (Robin) understood."

After viewing unedited footages of the 24/7 action inside the house, Robin discovered that the scene he had been annoyed about—Christian in boxer shorts, aping a macho dancer—happened before Rustom's coming out.

Biboy wondered: "If he weren't Robin, would they have shown him the tapes?"

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07:45 / 09:30LFS /
04:30 LMF / 06:00 END
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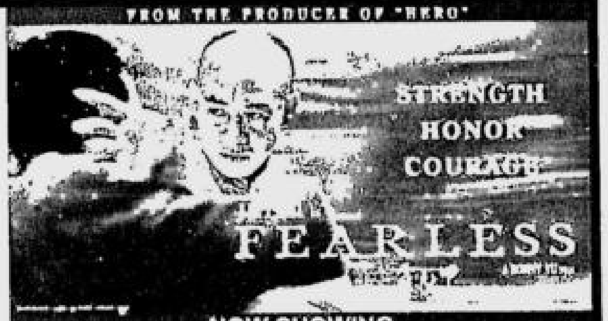
SM City Manila Cinema lobby
From February 22 to March 14



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1 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
2 FEARLESS
3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 UNDERCLASS MAN

SM CITY BATANGAS
1 BLOODRAYNE
2 CLOSE TO YOU
3 MUNICH
4 PINK PANTHER

SM CITY BACOOR
1 UNDERCLASS MAN
2 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
3 16 BLOCKS
4 FINAL DESTINATION 3
5 FEARLESS
6 CLOSE TO YOU
7 THE DARK
8 YOURS, MINE & OURS

SM CITY STA. ROSA
1 PRIDE AND PREJUDICE
2 YOURS, MINE & OURS
3 FINAL DESTINATION 3
4 FEARLESS

SM CITY PAMPANGA
1 FEARLESS
2 YOURS, MINE & OURS
3 FINAL DESTINATION 3
4 NASAAN SI FRANCIS
5 WALK THE LINE
6 CLOSE TO YOU

SM CITY LUCENA
1 PINK PANTHER
2 GOAL
3 NEW WORLD
4 CLOSE TO YOU

SM CITY MOLINO
1 16 BLOCKS
2 FEARLESS
3 UNDERCLASS MAN
4 FINAL DESTINATION 3

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
1 MEMOIRS OF GEISHA
11:30FS / 02:00 / 04:30
07:00 09:24 LFS
09:30 LMF / 11:50 END
2 FEARLESS
11:20FS / 11:30 MF
01:30 / 03:30 / 05:30
07:30 / 09:15 LFS /
09:30 LMF / 11:15 END
3 16 BLOCKS
11:20FS / 11:30 MF
01:30 / 03:30 / 05:30
7:30 / 09:15 LFS
09:30 LMF / 11:15 END
4 YOURS, MINE & OURS
5 ST. ANGE
6 NASAAN SI FRANCIS
7 CLOSE TO YOU
8 AEON FLUX

SM CITY ILOILO
1 YOURS, MINE & OUR
2 RESERVED
3 BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE
4 FEARLESS
5 CLOSE TO YOU
6 NEW WORLD
7 RESERVED
8 NASAAN SI FRANCIS

SM CITY DAVAO
1 FIREWALL
2 PROOF
3 CLOSE TO YOU
4 FEARLESS
5 YOURS, MINE & OURS
6 AEON FLUX

SM CITY CAGAYAN
1 WALK THE LINE
2 FEARLESS
3 AEON FLUX
4 FIREWALL

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SHANG CINEPLEX
1 YOURS, MINE & OURS
MTRCB GP
1 00, 3.15, 5 30, 7:45, 10:00 LMF
2 16 BLOCKS
MTRCB PG-13
12 20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10 00 LMF
3 DATE MOVIE
MTRCB R-18
2.20, 4:15, 6:10, 8:05, 10:00
4 CASANOVA
MTRCB R-13
12 00, 2:30, 5.00, 7.30 10:00
PREMIERE THEATRE THE LAST HOLIDAY
MTRCB GP 1:15, 3.45, 6 15, 9 00 LMF
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CINEMA 2 LAST HOLIDAY 10:35 , 12:50,3:10, 5:35 , 8:05 , 10:30 GP
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CINEMA 3 16 BLOCKS 10:50 , 1:05 , 3:20, 5:35 , 7:50 , 10:10 PG13
CINEMA 4 CASANOVA 10:35 , 12:55 , 3:20, 5:45 , 8:10 , 10:35 R13
CINEMA 5 YOURS, MINE, & OURS 11:40 , 1:55,4:05, 6:15 , 8:25 , 10:35 GP
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

MUSIC MUSEUM			
	MARCH 18 ,2006	VINA M , RACHEL A ,GENEVA C	9:00PM
	MARCH 30 ,2006	RICO J. PUNO	9:00PM
TEATRINO PROMENADE GREENHILLS		TEATRINO DANCE NIGHT every MONDAY starting MARCH 6 7PM FOR INQUIRIES CALL 722-4532 LOC 116	

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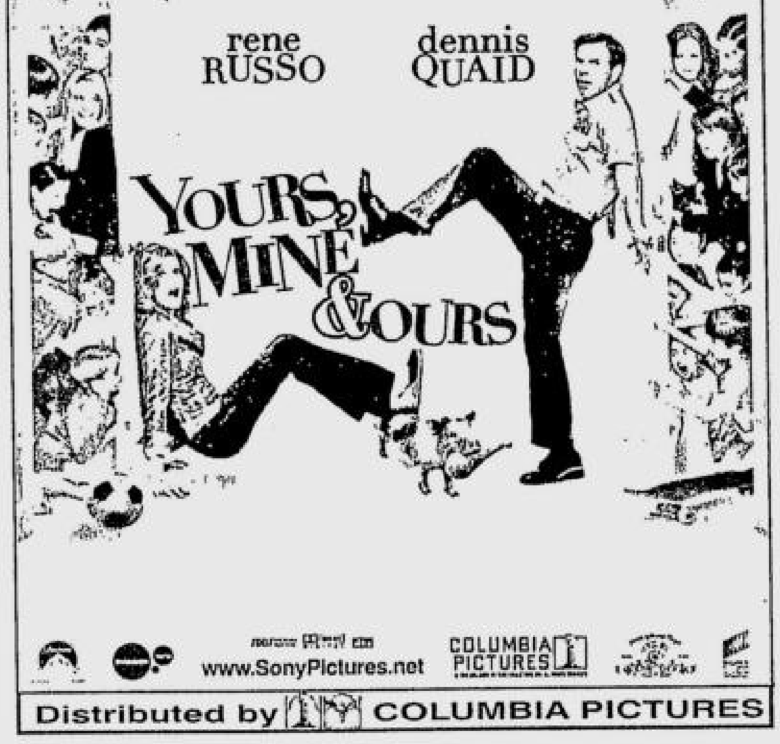

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THE DARK 1 00 / 3:10 / 5:20 / 7:30 / 9:40	UNDERCLASSMAN 12:50 / 3:00 / 5:10 / 7:20 / 9:30	16 BLOCKS 11:45 / 2:15 / 4:45 / 7:15 / 9:45	
THE LAST HOLIDAY 1:50 / 4:20 / 6:50 / 9:20	YOURS, MINE & OURS 12:50 / 3:00 / 5:10 / 7:20 / 9:30	DATE MOVIE 1:40 / 4:20 / 7:00 / 9.40	16 BLOCKS 1:40 / 4:10 / 6:40 / 9:10
THE FEARLESS 1 00 / 3:10 / 5:20 / 7:30 / 9:40	CASANOVA 2:00 / 4.30 / 7:00 / 9:30	BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2 3:00 / 7:20 FINAL DESTINATION 3 12 50 / 5 10 / 9 30	ONLY P120 ADMISSION GLOBE PLATINUM P[illegible]

Ali MALL CINEMAS

1	16 BLOCKS 12:40 / 3:10 / 5:40 / 8:10	2	THE FEARLESS 12:15 R2 / 2:05 / 4 15 / 6:25 / 8:35	DATE MOVIE 12:20 / 3:00 / 5:40 / 8:20
4	TIGER BLADE 12 20 / 2:20 / 4 20 / 6.20 / 8:20	5	THE DARK 11:50 / 2:00 / 4:10 / 6:20 / 8:30	DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

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ARANETA COLISEUM
HERMANS HERMITS - PETER NOONE CONCERT
MARCH 17, FRIDAY 8 pm
SERGIO MENDES & BRASIL 2006
MARCH 18, SATURDAY 8 pm

So how did 'Brokeback' lose?

JACK Nicholson, Best Picture presenter.

NEW YORK—WE JOKED ABOUT IT, argued about it, spoofed it. "Brokeback Mountain" was everywhere in our popular culture—yet it lost the big Oscar it was supposed to win.

After Jack Nicholson announced "Crash" as Best Picture at the conclusion of the Academy Awards on Sunday, he shrugged his shoulders as if to say, "Don't look at me."

Was is a "Broke Backlash," or was "Crash" just the worthy contender in the final stretch? There are as many theories as there are "Brokeback" parodies on the Net.

One theory is that, despite the hoopla, Academy voters didn't really love the saga of two gay cowboys.

"Sometimes people pretend to like movies more than they actually do," said Richard Walter, head of the screenwriting program at the University of California, Los Angeles Film School.

Critic Kenneth Turan, writing in the Los Angeles Times, said the movie "made people distinctly uncomfortable." He added: "In the privacy of the voting booth ... people are free to act out the unspoken fears and ... prejudices that they would never breathe to another soul, or acknowledge to themselves. This year, that acting out doomed 'Brokeback Mountain'."

Beyond accolades

Gay activists did not necessarily agree.

Joe Solmonese, president of the Human Rights Campaign, the largest US gay rights group, said: "I was certainly disappointed. But I would trade that Oscar for all the positive conversations that this movie spurred between parents and their gay children, or between employees and their gay co-workers. That impact transcends accolades."

Some focused on the typical Academy voter: older, and city-dwelling. Author and "Brokeback" co-screenwriter Larry McMurtry thought that was key to his film's loss: "We are an urban nation."

McMurtry could have added that not only are Academy voters urban, they are from Los Angeles—the heart of "Crash," a racial drama depicting the intertwining experiences of an array of characters over 36 hours.

"Brokeback" director Ang Lee, who won the directing prize, said he hadn't a clue why his film lost.

"Crash" came out to mixed reviews in May, much too early for a film to stay in voters' minds. But Lionsgate Films reminded voters and critics of the film's potency by flooding them with DVD copies in late 2005.

So what is to be learned from Sunday night's upset result? Not much, says Walter, the film professor. You just really never know what Academy voters are going to do."

Jocelyn Noveck, AP

ROUNDUP

Mom, are you gay?

NEW YORK—Madonna says she had some explaining to do when her daughter, Lourdes, asked about that kiss with Britney Spears at the 2003 MTV Video Music Awards.

MADONNA REUTERS

"[Lourdes] is really obsessed with who is gay," says Madonna in an interview in Out magazine's April issue. "She even asked, 'Mom, you know they say that you are gay?' And I'm, 'Oh, do they? Why?' And she says, 'Because you kissed Britney Spears.' And I said, 'No, it just means I kissed Britney Spears. I am the mommy pop star and she is the baby pop star. And I am kissing her to pass my energy on to her."

Madonna, 47, famously locked lips with Spears, 24, while performing her songs "Like a Virgin" and "Hollywood" at the awards ceremony.

The pop diva, considered by some to be an icon in the gay community, tells the magazine her 9-year-old daughter likes to guess who is gay: "Oh, and the other thing she likes to do when we go out, she says, 'Mom, do you want me to point out who the gay men are?' And I say, 'Okay, but I think I already know.'"

AP

New GMA 7 trilogy

"PUSO3," a trilogy featuring GMA 7 artists, will premiere tomorrow, 7 p.m., at the Cinema 2 of Robinsons Galleria's Movieworld.

RYZA Cenon

The digital film is the product of an acting workshop attended by GMA Artist Center talents. The first movie, "Kulam," written and directed by Rahyan Carlos, tells of how the families of Edwin and Tinay use witchcraft to drive them apart. It stars Mark Herras, Ryza Cenon and LJ Reyes, with guests Robert Seña and Isay Alvarez.

"Siklo," written by Rahyan Carlos and directed by Soxie Topacio, recounts how the life of Angel, victim of domestic violence, changes after joining a support group and meeting others like himself. Mike Tan, MC Montirola and Chanda Romero star.

"Lost and Found," a collaboration of father and son Peque and Wanggo Gallaga, is a quirky comedy about missing persons and the strange things you discover about people close to you during difficult times. Lead stars are CJ Muere and Michael Garcia.

Ang Lee's praise

HOLLYWOOD—Oscar-winning "Brokeback Mountain" director Ang Lee has hailed Australia's Heath Ledger's performance as a gay cowboy in the film as a "miracle" of acting.

ANG Lee AP

Taiwanese-born Lee, 51, sung the praises of the 26-year-old who lost out on the Best Actor Oscar to American star Philip Seymour Hoffman, who won for "Capote," during an interview following Sunday's Academy Awards.

"It's not only remarkable, it's almost like a miracle," Lee said. A lot of people told me that his performance reminds them of a young Brando. It's just outstanding."

He said Hoffman's victory did not detract in any way from Ledger's performance. "He did a marvelous, marvelous, miraculous performance, so original."

The director said he had not seen Ledger since he lost out on his first big chance at Oscar gold.

But Lee said that when he did see Ledger, possibly at an Oscars after party, "I will hug him; I will praise him; I will tell him what he meant in my mind."

AFP

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

DATE MOVIE R18 1:40,3:40,5:40,7:40,9:40	CASANOVA R13 12:15,2:45,5:15, 7:45,10:10	YOURS, MINE AND OURS G 1:45,3:55,6:05, 8:15,10:25
THE LAST HOLIDAY G 12:20,2:45,5:10, 7:35,10:00	UNDERCLASSMAN R13 1:30,3:35,5:40,7:45,9:50	16 BLOCKS R13 1:35,3:45,5:55,8:05,10:20

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1	CASSANOVA 1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00 R-13
2	YOURS, MINE AND OURS 11:40, 1:55, 4:10, 6:25, 8:40, 11:00 GP
3	16 BLOCKS 1:20, 3:45, 6:10, 8:35, 11:00 PG-13
4	LAST HOLIDAY 11:55, 2:35, 5:15, 7:55, 10:35 GP

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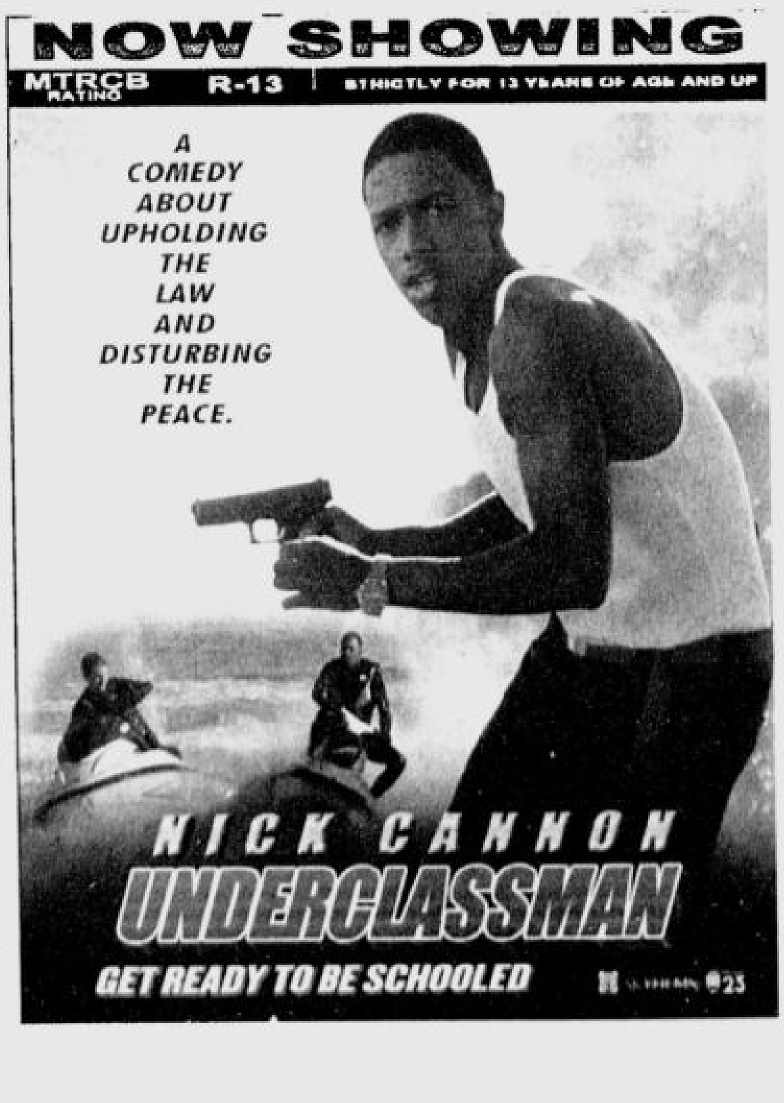
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2 (DOLBY)	16 BLOCKS PG13
3 (DOLBY)	DATE MOVIE R18
4 (DOLBY)	CASANOVA R13

PREMIERE

DOLBY	LAST HOLIDAY R13

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS)	THE DARK
2 (SDDS)	FINAL DESTINATION 3
3 (DTS)	THE LAST HOLIDAY
4 GOLD (LFS)	16 BLOCKS
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	16 BLOCKS
6 GOLD (SDDS)	YOURS, MINE & OURS
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	CASANOVA
8	FEARLESS
9	CLOSE TO YOU
10	UNDERCLASSMAN

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(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72

1 (DOLBY)	CASSANOVA
2 (DOLBY)	YOURS, MINE & OURS
3 (DOLBY)	16 BLOCKS
4 (DOLBY)	LAST HOLIDAY

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Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	YOURS, MINE & OURS
2 (DTS)	DATE MOVIE
3 (DOLBY)	FEARLESS
4	PLEASE CALL

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Binan) tel. (049) 4111146

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2 (DOLBY)	DATE MOVIE
3 (DTS)	FEARLESS
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(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	CLOSE TO YOU
2	PINK PANTHER
3 (DOLBY)	AEON FLUX

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1	THE NEW WORLD
2	CLOSE TO YOU
3 (DOLBY)	MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA
4 (DTS)	ST. ANGIE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320

1	FEARLESS
2	AEON FLUX
3 (DOLBY)	SAW 2

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan)

1	BLOODRAYNE
2	AEON FLUX

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Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216

1	16 BLOCKS
2	FEARLESS - PG13
3	YOUR, MINE & OURS- GP
4	DATE MOVIE - R18

Blue Wave MARQUINTON
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927

1 (DOLBY)	YOURS, MINE & OURS
2 (DOLBY)	DATE MOVIE
3 (DOLBY)	16 BLOCKS
4 (DOLBY)	RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228

1 (DOLBY)	FEARLESS
2	THE DARK
3	YOURS, MINE & OURS
4	16 BLOCKS
5	DATE MOVIE

starmall EDSA SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150

3	FEARLESS
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX)	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
5	16 BLOCKS

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Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	FEARLESS
2	BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2
3	PLEASE CALL
4	RESERVED

metropolis star cinema
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 6433994

1	TIGER BLADE
2	16 BLOCKS
3	CASANOVA
4	FEARLESS

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 , 833.3274

1	YOURS, MINE & OURS
2	FEARLESS
3	TIGER BLADE

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)

1	FEARLESS
2	YOURS, MINE & OURS

THEATRES
4F Pacific Mall Cabanatuan, Telephone No (044) 600-3025

1	FIREWALL
2	CLOSE TO YOU
3	AEON FLUX

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN
2	CLOSE TO YOU
3 (DTS EX)	YOURS, MINE & OURS
4	BLOODRAYNE

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121

1	RESERVED
2	RESERVED
3 (DOLBY)	RESERVED
4 (DTS)	RESERVED

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena tel (042) 660-5271

✰	YOURS, MINE & OURS
✰	PINK PANTHER
✰	RESERVED
✰	RESERVED

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489

1	THE NEW WORLD
2	MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA
3 (DOLBY)	PINK PANTHER
4 (DTS)	AEON FLUX

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	FEARLESS
2	PINK PANTHER

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748

1	CLOSE TO YOU
2	BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	TIGER BLADE
2	PLEASE CALL
3	PLEASE CALL
4 (DTS)	PLEASE CALL

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	YOURS, MINE & OURS
2	FEARLESS
3 (DTS)	BLOODRAYNE
4	NASAAN SI FRANCIS
5	MAGENTA

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	THE NEW WORLD
2	CLOSE TO YOU
3	THE PINK PANTHER
4	FEARLESS

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879,2029

1	TIGERBLADE
2	HAYOP SA GANDA

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Filipino talents stand out abroad

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

Here's a dancer that local TV needs

WE RECENTLY CAUGHT THE FINALS OF THE terpsichorean tilt, "So You Think You Can Dance" on ABC 5, and rooted for Fil-Am finalist **Melody Lacayanga**, who was narrowly beaten by top winner **Nick Lazzarini**.

Even if she ended up only in second place, Melody won viewers over with her technical virtuosity, great personality and love for dancing.

Melody's dancing career in the United States is now a sure thing, but she should come to the Philippines as soon as she can, to star in a TV special here.

Pinoy pride should make that show a hit, after which she should be asked to host a dance show on TV.

After **Dayanara Torres** left us, the local TV screen has been unsuccessfully looking for a great dancer to topbill a dance program—and Melody is *it*.

Another Filipino talent poised to make his mark intentionally is **Mon David**. He's been chosen among over 100 singers from 23 countries as one of the 12 semifinalists competing in the London International Jazz Competition for Vocalists on March 18.

Six singers will survive that leg of competition, and vie for top honors on March 22 at Cadogan Hall in Chelsea. Our hunch is that Mon will do well in the competition—so another international Filipino singing star should be born.

Finally, kudos to Fil-Am hoofer **Cheryl Bautista Burke** for successfully teaming up with **Drew Lachey** of 98 Degress to victory in the popular "Dancing with the Stars" competition on ABC-TV in the States.

Performance factors aside, the winning pair was boosted by the many votes called in by supportive Filipinos in the US.

Melody and Cheryl should fly to Manila as soon as possible to further enhance their careers, and to enliven the desultory dance scene here.

As for Mon, he doesn't need a victory in London to convince his supporters here that his talent is of international caliber, so all he needs to do is his very best!

Note that, in the past, standout Filipino performers tended to be singers, thanks to hit showcases like "Miss Saigon." These days, however, Fil-Am talents like Melody and Cheryl are making it as dancers.

This has been a long time in coming because Pinoys are as good at dancing as they are at singing. Fact is, our dancers started making waves almost 50 years ago, when the Bayanihan Dance Company first performed to great acclaim on Broadway. And, in the '70s, **Bob Fosse**'s hit dance musical, "Dancin'" had sultry young Filipina **Cynthia Onrubia** among its prodigiously talented solo performers.

Well, Melody and Cheryl can now carry the torch from where they left off, and help establish the Philippines as the veritable all-singing and all-dancing capital of the world!

Sitti

Beautiful lounge singer and recording artist **Sitti** performs every Friday night at Stonehouse on E. Rodriguez Ave., QC. Her debut album, "Caffe Bossa," is distributed by Warner and is available at leading music stores. The album has 18 tracks of contemporary songs and pop and jazz standards, rendered in Sitti's signature cool, bossa style.

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1 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN • THX
2 16 BLOCKS
3 THE LAST HOLIDAY
4 DATE MOVIE
5 CASANOVA
6 YOURS, MINE AND OURS
7 FEARLESS
8 THE DARK
9 KEYS TO THE HOUSE
10 UNDERCLASS MAN

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12
1 16 BLOCKS
2 UNDERCLASS MAN
3 THE LAST HOLIDAY
4 DATE MOVIE
5 THE DARK
6 CASANOVA
7 YOURS, MINE AND OURS

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199
1 DATE MOVIE
2 UNDERCLASS MAN
3 THE LAST HOLIDAY
4 CASANOVA
5 YOURS, MINE AND OURS
6 16 BLOCKS
7 THE DARK
8 FEARLESS

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3229-30
1 DATE MOVIE
2 FEARLESS
3 CASANOVA
4 YOURS, MINE AND OURS
5 16 BLOCKS
6 UNDERCLASS MAN

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575
1 DATE MOVIE
2 BLOODRAYNE
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

PIONEER 687-5378
1 DATE MOVIE
2 THE DARK
3 16 BLOCKS
4 YOURS, MINE AND OURS

the keys
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A father and son love story every mother would die for.

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GALLERIA

A FATHER AND SON LOVE STORY EVERY MOTHER WOULD DIE FOR...

The film is a touching story of a young father forging a relationship with his handicapped son, whom he meets for the first time as a teenager. Having suffered a traumatic birth, Paolo is disabled both physically and psychologically and must travel to a special hospital in Berlin for rehabilitation. Gianni, who accompanies the boy in hopes of getting to know his estranged son, meets Nicole, a strong woman dedicating herself entirely to the care of her handicapped daughter. Through their conversations, Nicole helps Gianni come to terms with the guilt of having abandoned Paolo. This revelation results in an unexpected and fragile happiness between a father and a son discovering each other and themselves in a place far from home.

Opens on March 08

MTRCB Rating: G
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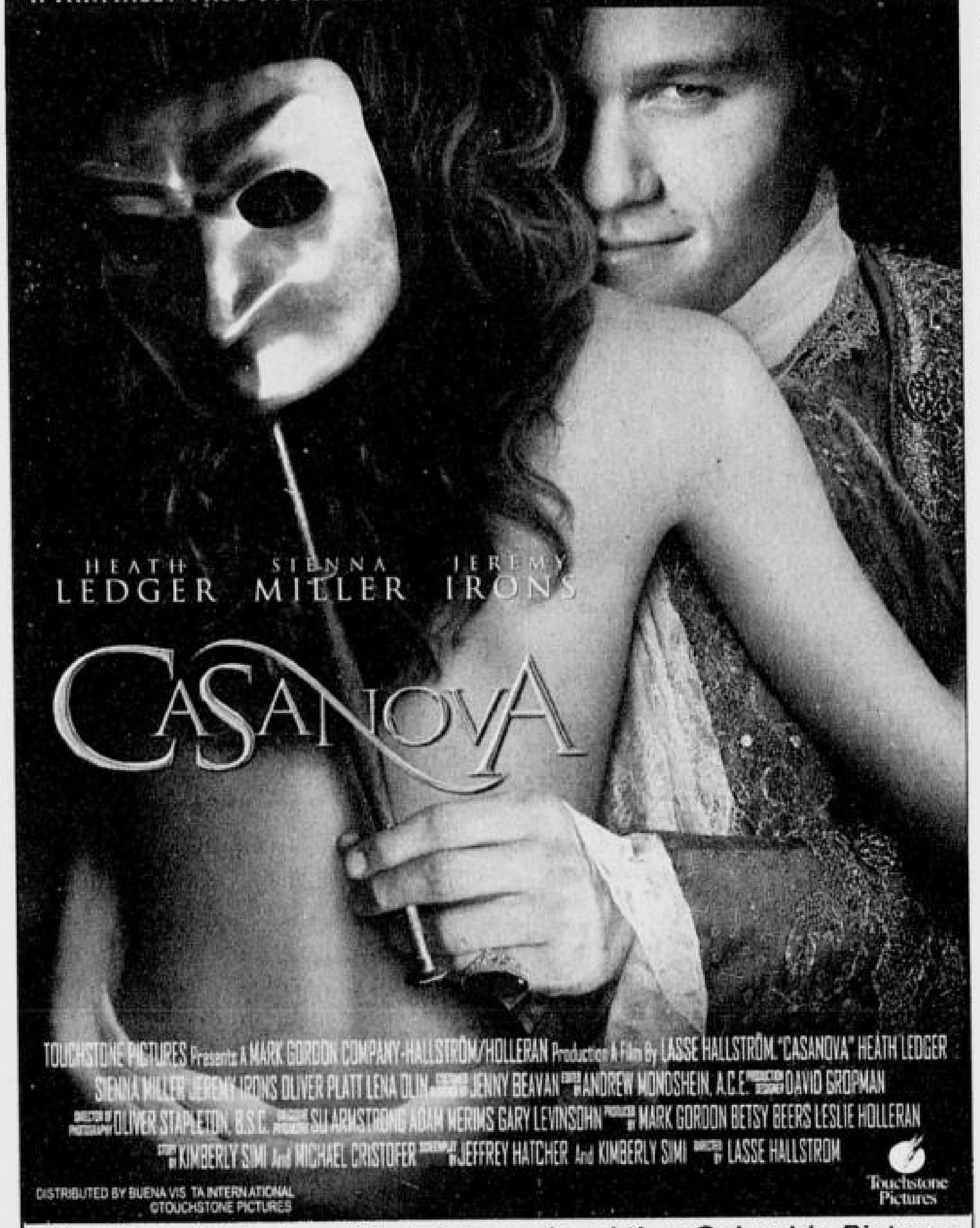

TOUCHSTONE PICTURES Presents A MARK GORDON COMPANY-HALLSTRÖM/HOLLERAN Production A Film By LASSE HALLSTRÖM "CASANOVA" HEATH LEDGER SIENNA MILLER JEREMY IRONS OLIVER PLATT LENA OLIN JENNY BEAVAN ANDREW MONDSHEIN, A.C.E. DAVID GROPMAN OLIVER STAPLETON, B.S.C. SU ARMSTRONG ADAM MERIMS GARY LEVINSOHN MARK GORDON BETSY BEERS LESLIE HOLLERAN KIMBERLY SIMI And MICHAEL CRISTOFER JEFFREY HATCHER And KIMBERLY SIMI LASSE HALLSTROM

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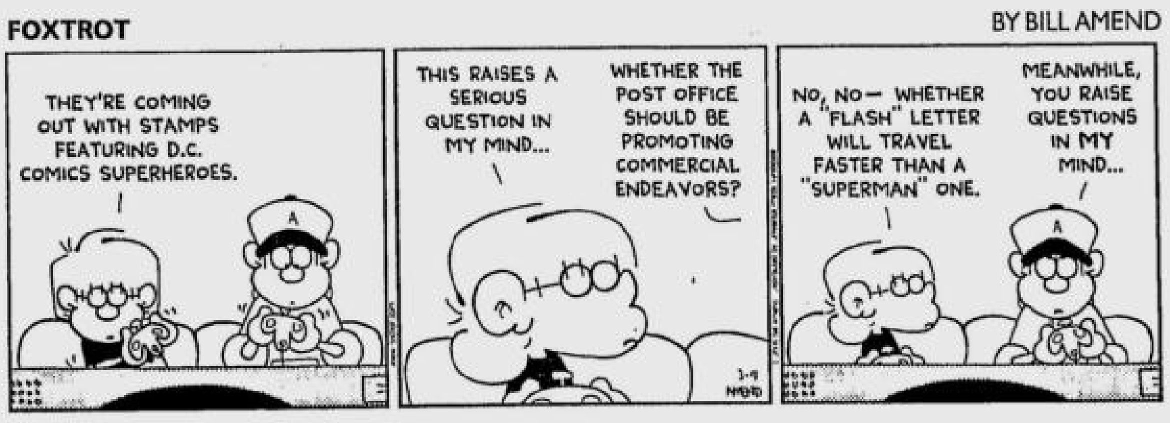
OPENS MARCH 15
LOVE IN DISGUISE

Amanda BYNES
She's THE MAN

ARE YOU REALLY WHO YOU ARE?

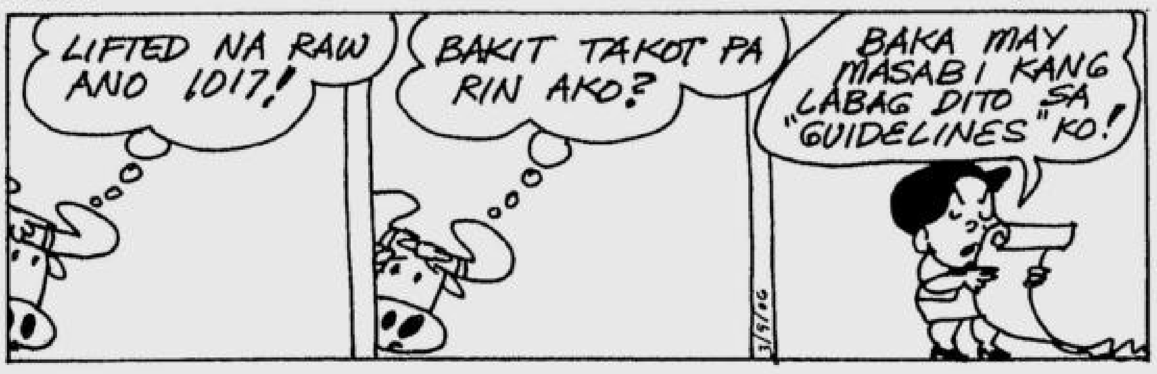
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


THEY'RE COMING OUT WITH STAMPS FEATURING D.C. COMICS SUPERHEROES.
THIS RAISES A SERIOUS QUESTION IN MY MIND...
WHETHER THE POST OFFICE SHOULD BE PROMOTING COMMERCIAL ENDEAVORS?
NO, NO— WHETHER A "FLASH" LETTER WILL TRAVEL FASTER THAN A "SUPERMAN" ONE.
MEANWHILE, YOU RAISE QUESTIONS IN MY MIND...
3-9
AMEND

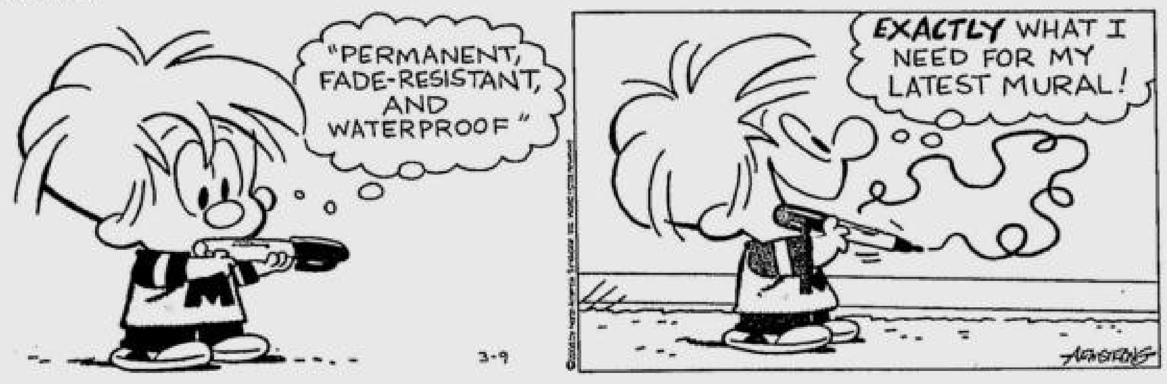
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


LIFTED NA RAW ANO 1017!
BAKIT TAKOT PA RIN AKO?
BAKA MAY MASABI KANG LABAG DITO SA "GUIDELINES" KO!
3/9/06

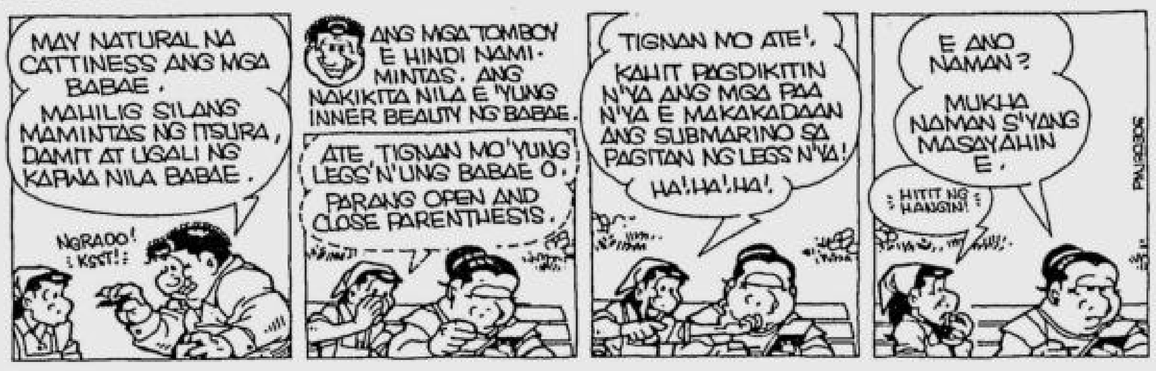
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


"PERMANENT, FADE-RESISTANT, AND WATERPROOF"
EXACTLY WHAT I NEED FOR MY LATEST MURAL!
3-9
ARMSTRONG

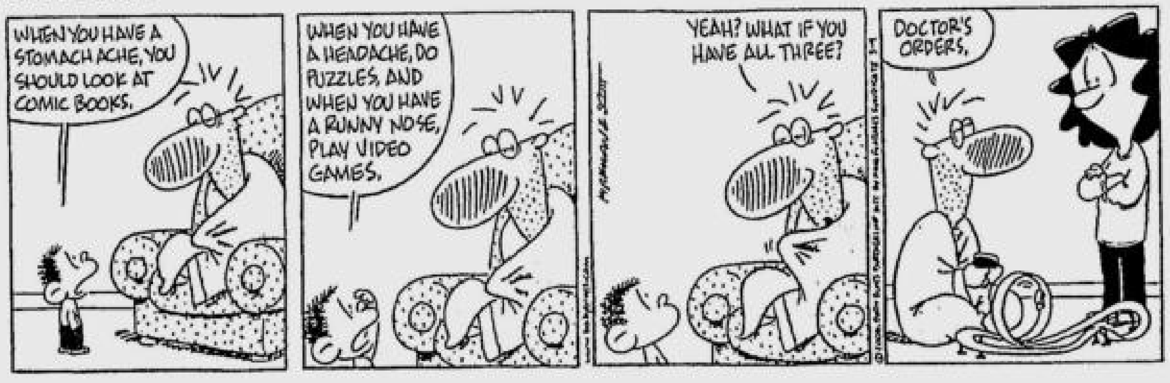
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


MAY NATURAL NA CATTINESS ANG MGA BABAE. MAHILIG SILANG MAMINTAS NG ITSURA, DAMIT AT UGALI NG KAPWA NILA BABAE.
NGRADO! KSST!
ANG MGA TOMBOY E HINDI NAMIMINTAS. ANG NAKIKITA NILA E 'YUNG INNER BEAUTY NG BABAE.
ATE, TIGNAN MO 'YUNG LEGS 'N 'UNG BABAE O. PARANG OPEN AND CLOSE PARENTHESIS.
TIGNAN MO ATE!, KAHIT PAGDIKITIN N'YA ANG MGA PAA N'YA E MAKAKADAAN ANG SUBMARINO SA PAGITAN NG LEGS N'YA!
HA! HA! HA!
E ANO NAMAN? MUKHA NAMAN S'YANG MASAYAHIN E.
HITIT NG HANGIN!
PMJR0305

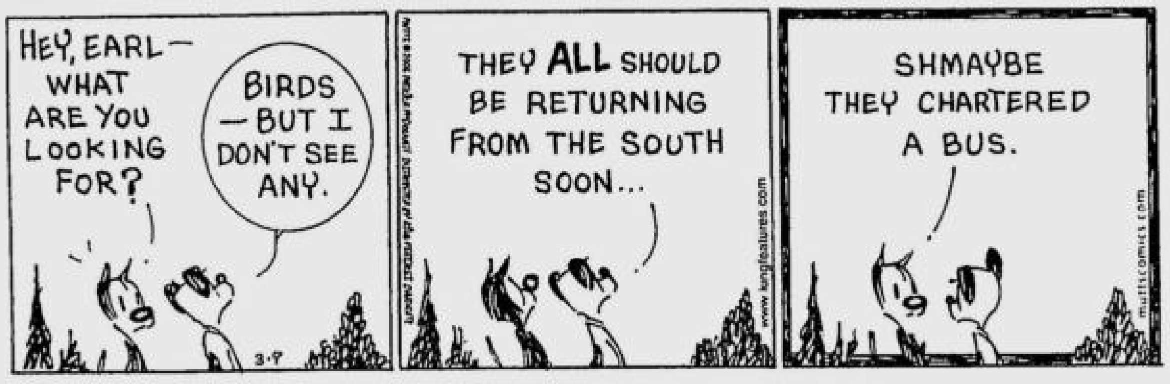
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


WHEN YOU HAVE A STOMACH ACHE, YOU SHOULD LOOK AT COMIC BOOKS.
WHEN YOU HAVE A HEADACHE, DO PUZZLES, AND WHEN YOU HAVE A RUNNY NOSE, PLAY VIDEO GAMES.
YEAH? WHAT IF YOU HAVE ALL THREE?
DOCTOR'S ORDERS.

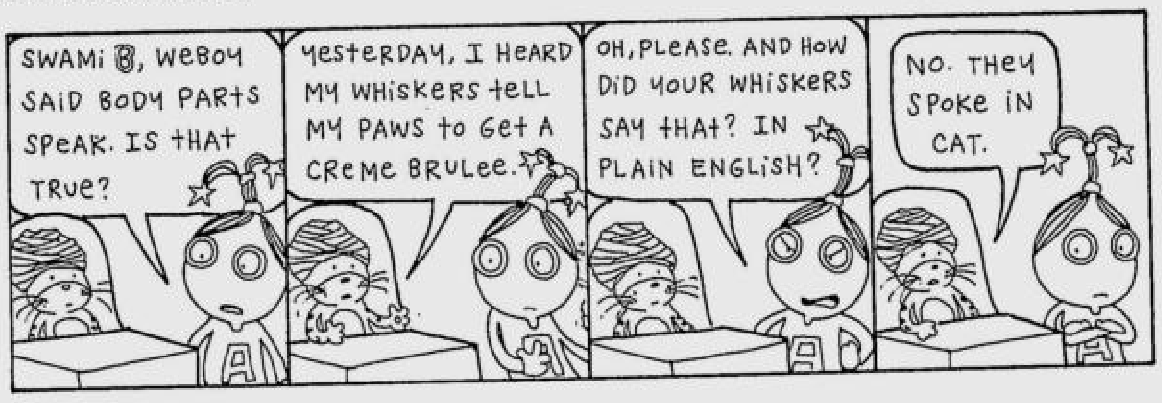
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


HEY, EARL— WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?
BIRDS — BUT I DON'T SEE ANY.
3-9
THEY ALL SHOULD BE RETURNING FROM THE SOUTH SOON...
www.kingfeatures.com
SHMAYBE THEY CHARTERED A BUS.
muttscomics.com

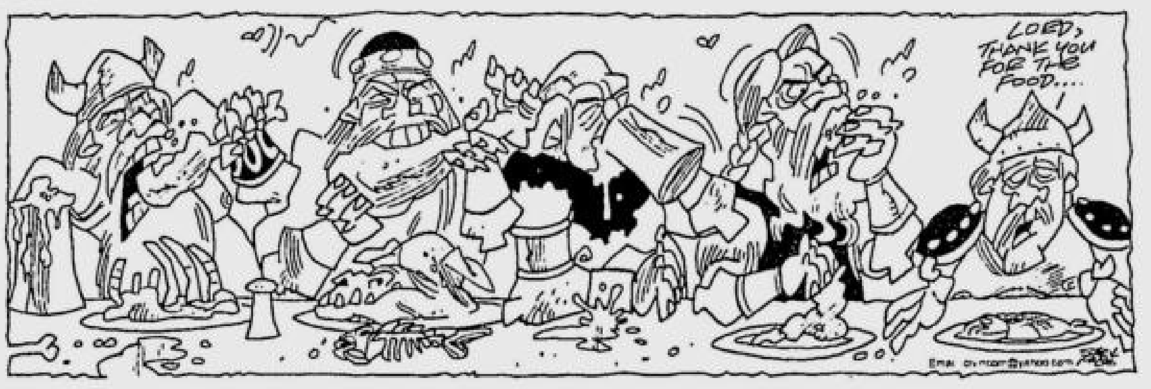
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


SWAMI B, WEBOY SAID BODY PARTS SPEAK. IS THAT TRUE?
YESTERDAY, I HEARD MY WHISKERS TELL MY PAWS TO GET A CREME BRULEE.
OH, PLEASE. AND HOW DID YOUR WHISKERS SAY THAT? IN PLAIN ENGLISH?
NO. THEY SPOKE IN CAT.

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


LORD, THANK YOU FOR THE FOOD....

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: Because you have the ability to think ahead, you have a good sense of strategy about life. You're genuine and expect others to be honest. You trust your instincts. You like family, yet you want to be free to travel. This year a phase of your life will end to make room for something new to begin.
Birthdate of: Mickey Spillane, author; Yuri Gagarin, cosmonaut; Juliette Binoche, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This can be a lovely day! There's a good chance that someone will do a sweet favor for you. You might even receive a gift or a hot tip from someone.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): This is a wonderful day to enjoy being with groups or friends. People are friendly, warm and ready to have a good time. Get into the spirit of things!

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): This is a marvelous day at work. Bosses are impressed by you. People are easy to work with. What more could you want?

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You suddenly have a wonderful opportunity to travel, make travel plans or do something connected with education and publishing. By all means, jump on this!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): People are so good to you today, which makes you happy. You're in a position to enjoy the resources and wealth of others. (When Lady Luck smiles on you, just smile back.)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Wonderful feelings of peace and harmony with others make this a pleasant day for you. Take time to enjoy yourself with others. It's good to cultivate joy.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): This is a good time to ask for whatever you want at work. You just might get it! You have foresight and the ability to see into the future today. Use this!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Some days we have to work hard; some days we can party. This is a party day for your sign! Enjoy social times with children, friends and romantic interests.

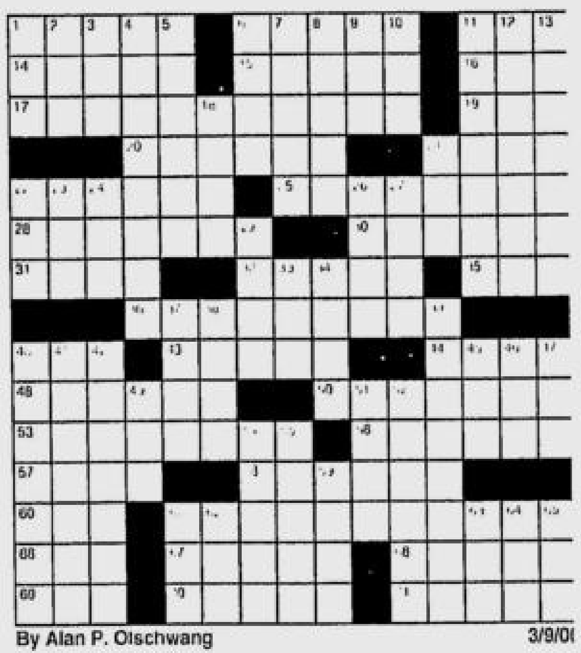
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Today the Sun is on marvelous terms with your ruler, Jupiter. It's an excellent day to make real estate deals, or buy anything for your home or a family member.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You're very eager for new experiences today. Great! Try out new activities or anything that expands your mind. It will be fun and adventurous.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): This is a great day for business and commerce. You might not feel like working very hard, but whatever you do could generate more money for you.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You have such a positive frame of mind today you easily can take stock of what you are doing. You see how to make changes in the future that will make you better and happier.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA
3/9/06

ACROSS
1 Corporate IDs
6 Waste conduit
11 Southern constellation
14 Wed on the run
15 Florida city
16 Actress Ryan
17 Start of Evan Esar quote
19 Unspecified individual
20 Spanish lariats
21 Elvis __ Presley
22 Messenger's trip
25 Part 2 of quote
28 Type of checkers
30 __ Beach, CA
31 Prod
32 Silly fowl
35 Sound of a leak
36 Part 3 of quote
40 Quick/flash connection
43 Ink ingredient
44 Madonna hit, "La __ Bonita"
48 Actress Nanette
50 Marks of disgrace
53 Part 4 of quote
56 Overcome with shock
57 Willie of baseball
58 Position properly
60 Man/mouse connection
61 End of quote
66 __ Miguel, CA
67 Silly
68 Forays
69 Blaster's letters
70 Pigeon shelters
71 Ferber and Best

DOWN
1 Dykstra of the diamond
2 Corrida cry
3 State off.
4 Modus __
5 Tranquil
6 Flue collection
7 Great brilliance
8 Director Raoul
9 "Xanadu" band
10 Served like sushi
11 Passionate and romantic
12 Makes famous, old-style
13 Meeting plans
18 Passing fancies
21 Uru. neighbor
22 Ticker tape?
23 Greek letter
24 Estuary
26 "Lohengrin" lass
27 French city
29 Ids' companions
33 Alain's affirmative
34 Holds title to
37 Cold feet
38 Cellist Ma
39 Scrooge, e.g.
40 At the very back of the boat
41 Very dry
42 Inactive
45 Wee in Dundee
46 __ Vegas
47 Nova Scotia hrs.
49 Certain colas
51 Old Chinese money
52 Disregard
54 "Hawaii Five-O villain
55 Buzz
59 Seine sights
61 Spasm
62 Lennon's love
63 __ and yang
64 Harem room
65 Ship letters

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

L	E	C	H	■	A	T	O	M	■	P	E	T	R	I
A	L	O	U	■	L	A	D	E	■	S	N	E	A	D
G	I	V	E	S	T	H	E	E	V	I	L	E	Y	E
E	S	E	■	A	E	R	A	T	E	■	I	S	E	E
R	E	S	T	I	R	■	■	S	S	T	S	■	■	■
■	■	■	E	D	S	E	L	■	T	I	T	L	L	S
S	P	A	N	■	■	R	A	H	A	L	■	I	D	O
C	A	S	T	S	A	S	P	E	L	L	O	V	E	R
U	P	I	■	O	T	T	E	R	■	■	M	Y	R	A
M	A	S	C	O	T	■	[illegible]	E	A	S	E	■	■	■
■	■	■	E	T	A	T	■	■	T	E	N	D	E	R
S	T	E	N	■	C	H	A	S	T	E	■	O	R	E
P	U	T	S	T	H	E	W	H	A	M	M	Y	O	N
A	N	N	O	Y	■	D	E	A	H	■	A	L	D	A
T	E	A	R	S	■	A	D	D	S	■	P	E	E	L

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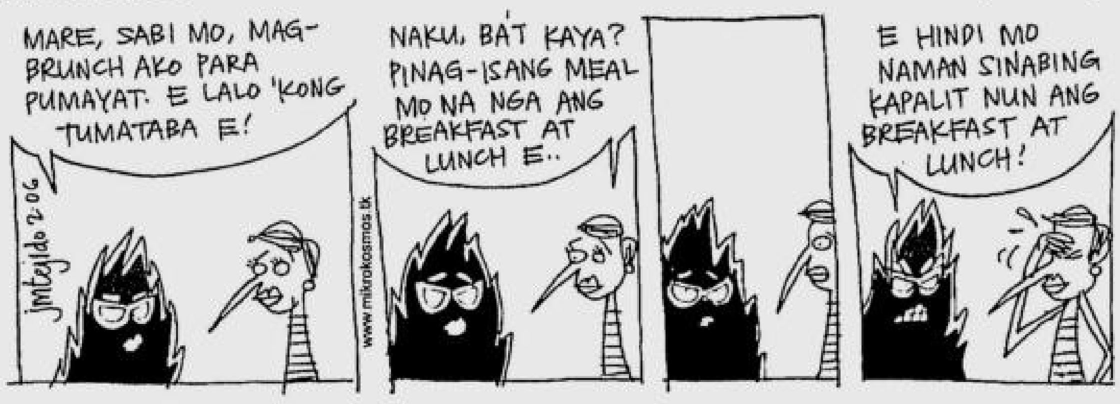
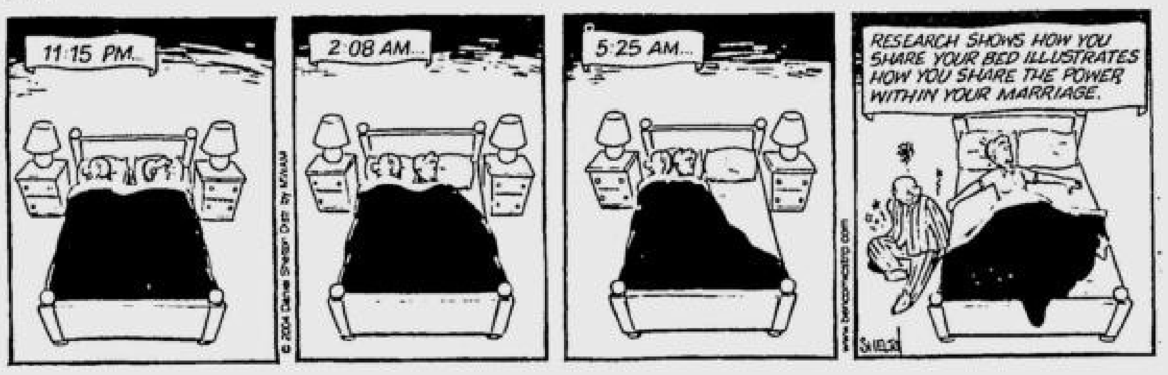
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


MARE, SABI MO, MAG-BRUNCH AKO PARA PUMAYAT. E LALO 'KONG TUMATABA E!
jmtejido 2-06
NAKU, BAT KAYA? PINAG-ISANG MEAL MO NA NGA ANG BREAKFAST AT LUNCH E..
www.mikrokosmos.tk
E HINDI MO NAMAN SINABING KAPALIT NUN ANG BREAKFAST AT LUNCH!

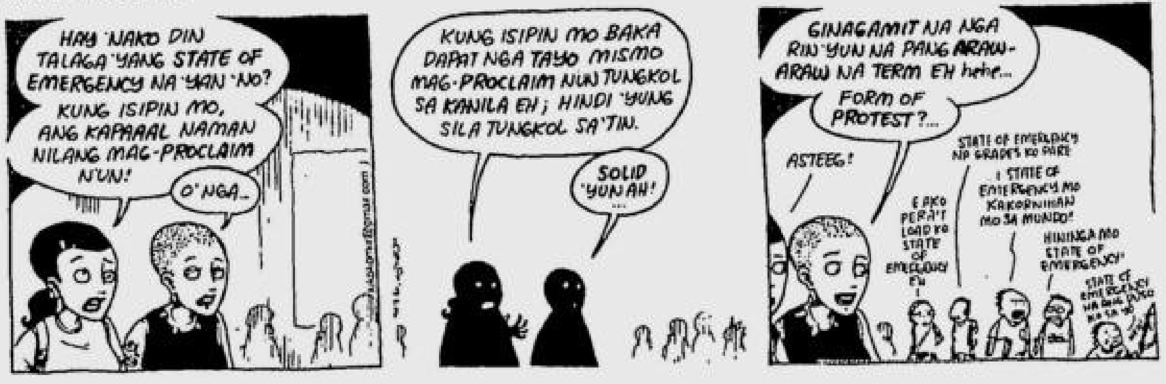
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


11:15 PM...
2:08 AM...
5:25 AM...
RESEARCH SHOWS HOW YOU SHARE YOUR BED ILLUSTRATES HOW YOU SHARE THE POWER WITHIN YOUR MARRIAGE.
SHELTON

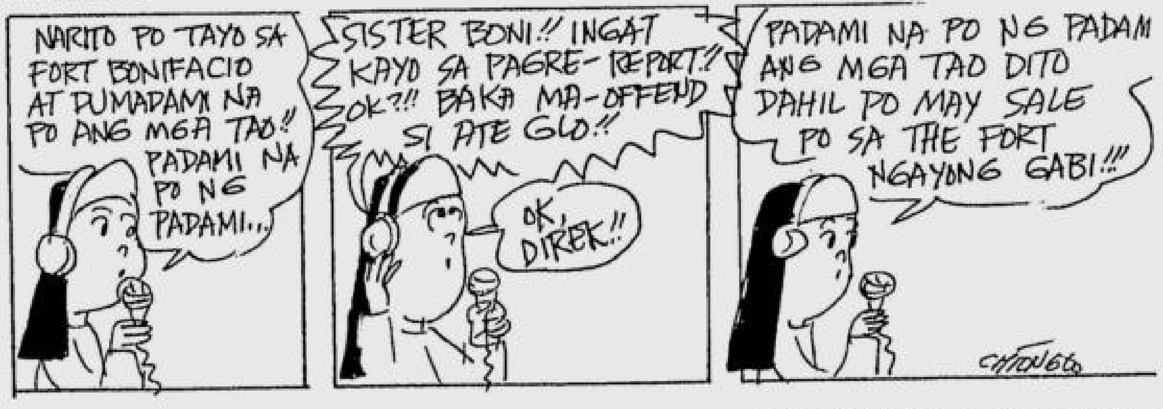
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


HAY 'NAKO DIN TALAGA 'YANG STATE OF EMERGENCY NA 'YAN 'NO?
KUNG ISIPIN MO, ANG KAPAAAL NAMAN NILANG MAG-PROCLAIM N'UN!
O'NGA..
KUNG ISIPIN MO BAKA DAPAT NGA TAYO MISMO MAG-PROCLAIM NUN TUNGKOL SA KANILA EH; HINDI 'YUNG SILA TUNGKOL SA'TIN.
SOLID 'YUN AH!
GINAGAMIT NA NGA RIN 'YUN NA PANG ARAW-ARAW NA TERM EH hehe...
FORM OF PROTEST?...
ASTEEG!
STATE OF EMERGENCY NG GRADES KO PARE
I STATE OF EMERGENCY MO KAKORNIHAN MO SA MUNDO!
E AKO PERA'T LOAD KO STATE OF EMERGENCY EH
HININGA MO STATE OF EMERGENCY!

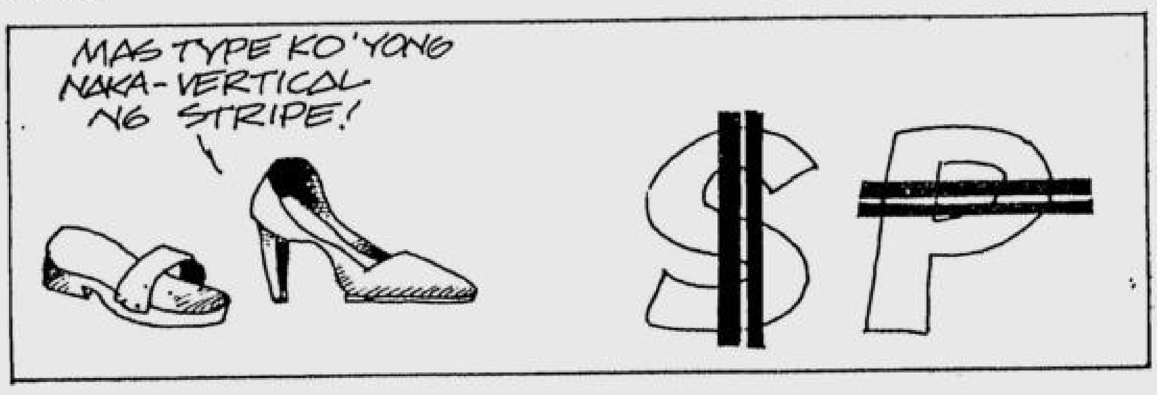
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


NARITO PO TAYO SA FORT BONIFACIO AT DUMADAMI NA PO ANG MGA TAO!!
PADAMI NA PO NG PADAMI...
SISTER BONI!! INGAT KAYO SA PAGRE-REPORT!! OK?!! BAKA MA-OFFEND SI ATE GLO!!
OK, DIREK!!
PADAMI NA PO NG PADAMI ANG MGA TAO DITO DAHIL PO MAY SALE PO SA THE FORT NGAYONG GABI!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


MAS TYPE KO 'YONG NAKA-VERTICAL NG STRIPE!

Heath pursues fun, women in new film

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

REVIEW

HEATH LEDGER TRAVELS TO the past once again, and this time he's a fun-loving straight man in "Casanova," the antithesis of his celebrated gay cowboy in "Brokeback Mountain."

Secret

A supposedly secret chapter in the life of the legendary Italian lover Giacomo Casanova is told in this light but charming comedy that further illustrates the versatility of Swedish director Lasse Hallstrom ("The Shipping News," "Chocolat"). Shot in Venice, the film is a lavishly presented period piece that reimagines the intertwined divinity and chaos of the 1700s.

Casanova's romantic exploits have become mythical by this time, as practically every hot-blooded heterosexual woman has colorful tales to tell about time spent with the writer-adventurer. The narrative details the repressive climate of the time, but also happily unveils the sex lives of many of Venice's citizens, including various clergy folk. But Casanova embarks on a new quest, which is to win the love of one woman who will ultimately be his wife.

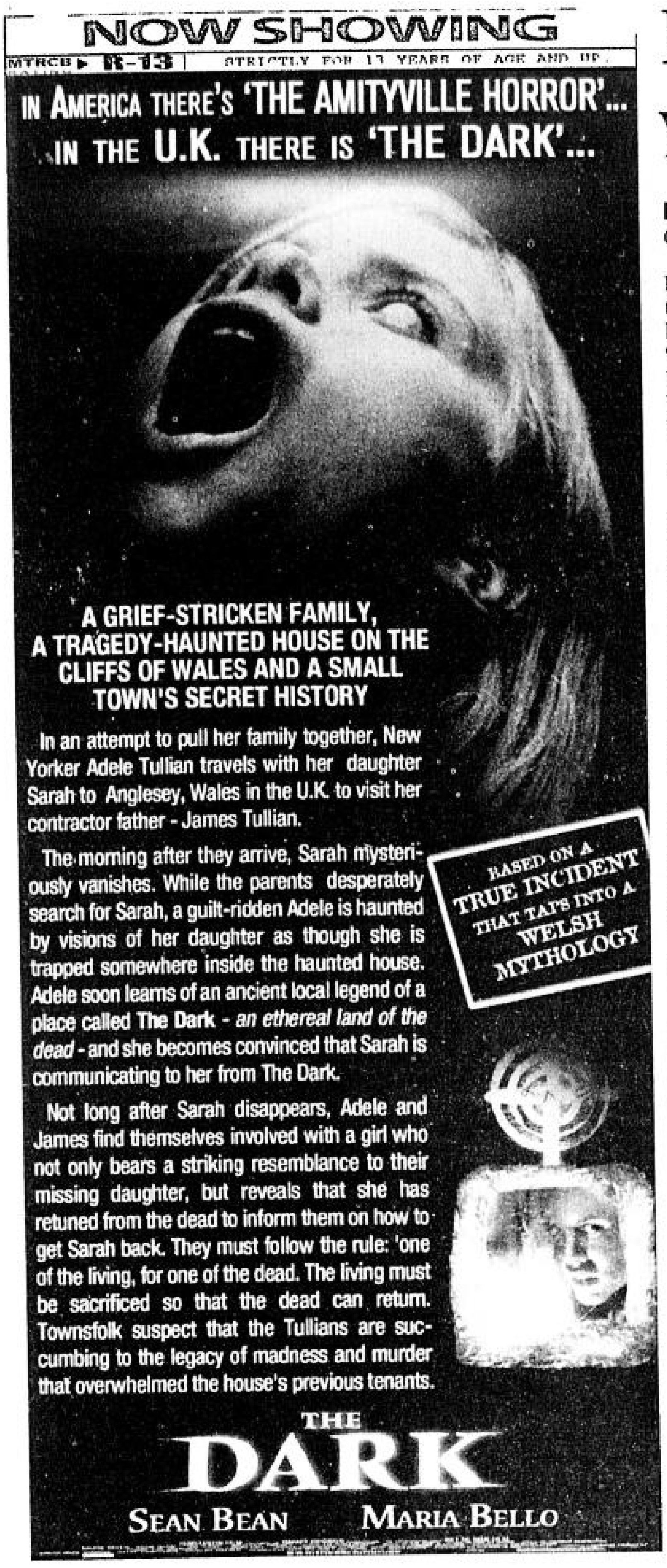
Fitting nicely in the role of energetic Francesca Bruni is Sienna Miller, who has made entertainment headlines in recent months because of her love life. But the newcomer's real romantic entanglements aside, Miller as the free-thinking, rebellious Francesca is quite refreshing. As skilled with the sword as she is with words, Francesca catches the eye of the stunned Casanova, who isn't beyond stealing another person's identity just to impress her.

Subtle

Tightly forming a subtle comedic rapport with the pair are some familiar and spellbinding actors. Jeremy Irons, portraying a bumbling inquisitor hunting Casanova, is especially delightful. Lena Olin, perhaps best known for her super-spy role in the TV series "Alias," is surprisingly endearing as Francesca's ditzy mother. Oliver Platt, as a wealthy man with self-image issues, adds deadpan humor to the ensemble chemistry.

The vividly molded characters owe much to the script, which pointedly discusses upheavals distinct to the era. "Casanova" still fun viewing, cleverly exploring the battle of the sexes, the importance of self-expression, compromises brought about by love and the electrifying thrill of the hunt.

ALL-WOMAN Sienna Miller is Heath Ledger's goal in "Casanova."



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IN AMERICA THERE'S 'THE AMITYVILLE HORROR'...
...IN THE U.K. THERE IS 'THE DARK'...

A GRIEF-STRICKEN FAMILY, A TRAGEDY-HAUNTED HOUSE ON THE CLIFFS OF WALES AND A SMALL TOWN'S SECRET HISTORY

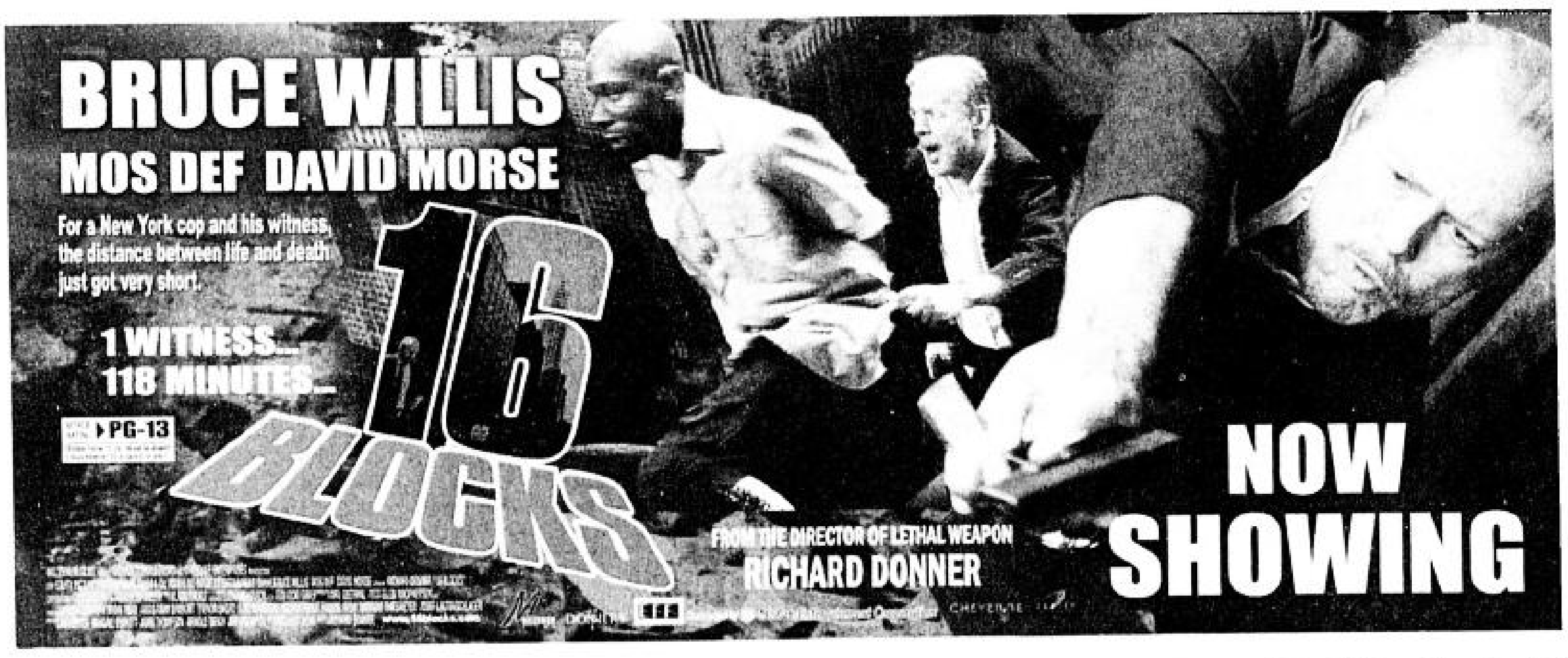
In an attempt to pull her family together, New Yorker Adele Tullian travels with her daughter Sarah to Anglesey, Wales in the U.K. to visit her contractor father - James Tullian.

The morning after they arrive, Sarah mysteriously vanishes. While the parents desperately search for Sarah, a guilt-ridden Adele is haunted by visions of her daughter as though she is trapped somewhere inside the haunted house. Adele soon learns of an ancient local legend of a place called The Dark - *an ethereal land of the dead* - and she becomes convinced that Sarah is communicating to her from The Dark.

Not long after Sarah disappears, Adele and James find themselves involved with a girl who not only bears a striking resemblance to their missing daughter, but reveals that she has retuned from the dead to inform them on how to get Sarah back. They must follow the rule: 'one of the living, for one of the dead. The living must be sacrificed so that the dead can return. Townsfolk suspect that the Tullians are succumbing to the legacy of madness and murder that overwhelmed the house's previous tenants.

BASED ON A TRUE INCIDENT THAT TAPS INTO A WELSH MYTHOLOGY

THE DARK
SEAN BEAN MARIA BELLO



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MOS DEF DAVID MORSE
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G4 GLORIETTA 4: 1 CASANOVA | 2 YOURS, MINE & OURS | 3 THX 16 BLOCKS 1:30, 3 45, 6 00, 8 15, 10 30 GUARANTEED SEATS | 4 CAPOTE | 5 FEARLESS | 6 DATE MOVIE | 7 LAST HOLIDAY
GB1 GREENBELT 1: 1 DATE MOVIE | 2 CASANOVA
GB3 GREENBELT 3: 1 THX DATE MOVIE 1 40, 3 35, 5 30, 7 25, 9 20, 11:15 GUARANTEED SEATS | 2 THX 16 BLOCKS 2.30, 4 45, 7 00, 9 15, 11 30 GUARANTEED SEATS | 3 LAST HOLIDAY 1 50, 4 15, 6 40, 9 05, 11 30 GUARANTEED SEATS | 4 YOURS, MINE & OURS 2 50, 5 00, 7 10, 9 20, 11 30 GUARANTEED SEATS | 5 CASANOVA 1:50, 4 15, 6 40, 9 05, 11 30 GUARANTEED SEATS
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER: 1 THX 16 BLOCKS | 2 CASANOVA | 3 DATE MOVIE | 4 LAST HOLIDAY | 5 YOURS, MINE & OURS
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU: 1 16 BLOCKS | 2 DATE MOVIE | 3 YOURS, MINE & OURS | 4 ST. ANGE
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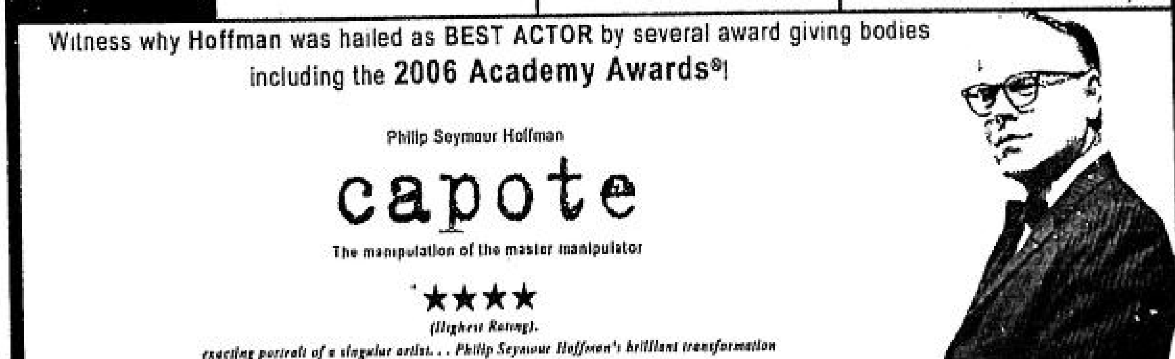
GLORIETTA: Jasmine Trias Visit, March 11, 2006
ALABANG TOWN CENTER: Anson's Emporium Exhibit, March 12 to 31, 2006
AYALA CENTER CEBU: St. Benedict Activity, March 9, 2006
MARKET! MARKET!: Woman's Today Summer Picks Event, March 16, 2006

GREENBELT: Ayala Greenbelt's Chocolate Festival, February 13 to March 15, 2006
Greenbelt Onstage: Repertory Philippines presents I LOVE YOU, YOU'RE PERFECT, NOW CHANGE at REP's Globe Theater - March 10 to 12, 2006. For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710
Ayala MUSEUM: Come & view the 20th ASIAN INTERNATIONAL ART EXHIBIT. For inquiries, please call 757-7117 to 21 loc 29, Or visit www.ayalamuseum.org



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PETRON

Strengthening peso worries Neda chief

SUBIC-TARLAC EXPRESSWAY BACK. BCDA president and CEO Narciso Abaya (left) discusses the Subic-Clark-Tarlac corridor with Pampanga Gov. Mark Lapid before the Global Gateways Forum in Pampanga. The event culminated in the signing of a commitment of support for the 93.7-km project by 200 representatives from both national and local government units, NGOs the business sector and the academe. The P21-billion toll super highway is expected to be completed by the end of 2007.

IMF sees RP debt burden easing

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY Fund sees the Philippines cutting its external debt to 47.5 percent of gross domestic product over the next five years from 65.7 percent as of end-2005 if the government would stick to its front-loading of fiscal reforms.

In a report issued by the IMF as part of regular consultations with the government, it said a scenario where reforms would proceed after the full implementation of the value-added tax would see the country's public sector debt declining firmly.

This scenario assumes a primary fiscal deficit downward adjustment of 2.6 percentage points of GDP from 2005 to 2007 that would, in turn, improve investor confidence and induce higher private sector investment that would perk up GDP growth to 5.5 percent.

Wiping out the fiscal deficits over the medium term, the IMF cautioned, would require additional fiscal measures after the VAT reform.

"Possible options include the rationalization of tax incentives and raising and indexing excise taxes," the IMF said.

A fiscal incentive rationalization bill had been filed in Congress but the IMF said even fiscal managers recognized this would yield limited revenue in its present form.

BSP urged to intervene to keep rate above P50:$1

By Michelle V. Remo and Doris C. Dumlao

THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (NEda) has called on the government to keep the peso from appreciating further, saying an exchange rate stronger than 50 to a dollar would already be bad for the export sector and the economy as a whole.

Neda Director General Romulo Neri suggested that the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) intervene in the market to ensure the peso would not breach the 50:$1 mark.

"An exchange rate of 51 or 52 (pesos to a dollar) is still comfortable, although exporters are already complaining. We should not let it strengthen below 50," Neri said yesterday in his first press briefing since being reassigned to the Neda last month.

He temporarily headed the Department of Budget and Management following the resignation of Emilia Boncodin. The budget department is now headed by former Rep. Rolando Andaya.

Neri said revenues of exporters from sectors depending heavily on imported raw materials such as electronics were not much affected. The strengthening value of the peso, which makes these products more costly and therefore less competitive, is offset by the decreasing cost of importing the raw materials.

But exporters who source their raw materials largely from the local market are adversely affected by the appreciation of the local currency. Neri said exporters of handicraft, fruits and various coconut-based products were being threatened to

STRENGTHENING/ B2

WHAT'S INSIDE

AEV obtains P2.2B in loans /B3

UAE lifts ban on RP processed meat exports /B7

Vehicle sales growth slows due to higher VAT

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE GROWTH RATE OF MOTOR vehicle sales dropped to 3.1 percent in the first two months as prices increased due to the higher value-added tax and the uptrend in fuel prices, according to an industry report.

Local assemblers sold 13,746 units as of end-February compared to 13,338 units in the same period in 2005.

In a joint report, the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines (Campi) and the Truck Manufacturers Association (TMA) said political instability also dampened sales as consumers chose to defer their purchases.

Still, the group said they expected sales to pick up again in March as it usually does every year.

Turnover of commercial vehicles mirrored the overall market performance as sales growth slowed to 4.7 percent in the first two months.

The low supply of some vehicle models also limited the increase in sales of Asian utility vehicles, light commercial vehicles (LCVs), light

VEHICLE/ B2

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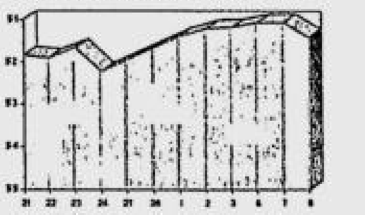

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 51.42 = $1
As of 5 p.m., March 8, 2006

¥ 117.73 = $1
As of 5 p.m., March 8, 2006

GOLD: $550.20-550.70
per ounce Hong Kong, March 8, 2006

STOCK MARKET

Stocks fall on rate woes

STOCKS FELL FOR THE SECOND day yesterday as investors fretted over prospects of higher interest rates and talk of heavy selling by government financial institutions.

The benchmark 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index fell 22.65 points, or 1.1 percent, to 2,099.26, adding to its 1.2-percent loss Tuesday.

All subindexes retreated. Decliners led gainers 58 to 23, while 56 stocks were unchanged.

Ayala Land contributed to the decline, falling 4.7 percent to P10.25, possibly on concern over the adverse impact that high interest rates may have on the country's biggest property group in asset terms, analysts said.

Globe Telecom fell 3 percent to P815 on continued profit-taking. Petron lost 1.1 percent to end at P4.45 on concern over its 2005 earnings results, which have yet to be released.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. recovered after a weak showing for most of

STOCKS/ B2

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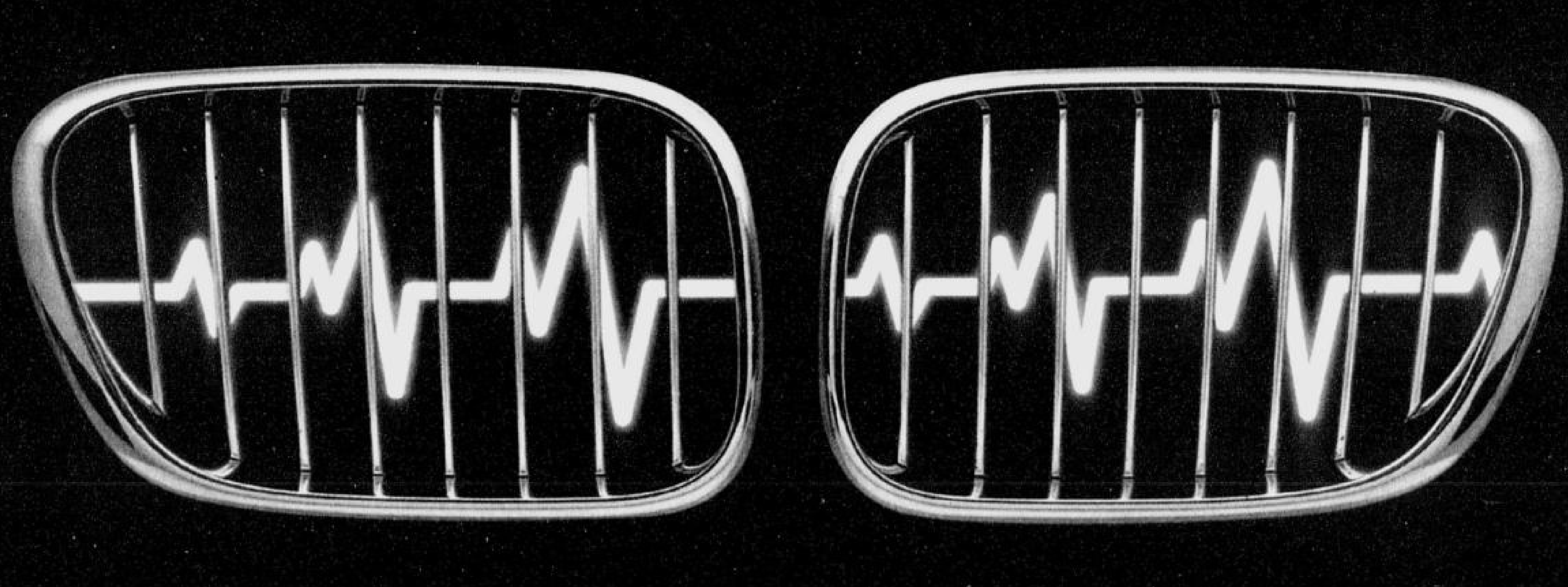

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I could right a book

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

TO THE MILLIONS UPON MILLIONS OF working class members of the government-managed pension funds SSS and GSIS:

Just so you know what is happening to your P20-billion "investment" in Equitable PCI Bank, the Go family—based on reports that did not come out in this newspaper—is making a comeback.

Before the Go family sold their shares in EPCIB to the SM group of 81-year-old mall operator Henry Sy, and before the SM group showed its real intent to take over the bank without spending another centavo, the Go family controlled EPCIB.

The beauty of it was, the Go family only owned 24 percent of the bank, while the GSIS-SSS had more than 40 percent.

The same family, reportedly, now wants the Supreme Court to rule that the family should get 10 of the 15 board seats of the bank.

Again, that's the same family that already sold out to the SM group. All their nominees to the board subsequently resigned, yet they still want the 10 board seats!

* * *

AS background, during the fight for control of the EPCIB board last year, the Go family asked the Supreme Court to rule that theirs was the legitimate board.

There were two boards at that time, with the Go family dominating one, and the coalition of GSIS-SSS-Trans Middle East enjoying the majority in the other.

As I said, in that Go family version of the board, their nominees already RESIGNED.

But all of a sudden, somebody is now nagging the Supreme Court to rule that the Go family should get those 10 board seats.

What is the significance of the report (not in this newspaper) on the ongoing bid of the SM group to take over the bank for a song? (Okay, the question actually should be, how does it affect the interest of the millions of members of SSS and GSIS?)

The Go family version of the board had only four nominees from the pension funds GSIS and SSS. Since the Go family nominees resigned, the pension funds got seven board seats. In short, the SM group does not control the EPCIB board. This is not good for the group's plans to take over the bank at no additional cost.

Logically, since the SM group bought the interest of the Go family in the bank, the SM group takes those 10 board seats. Thus today, the SM group takes over the board. Tomorrow, who knows, maybe the whole bank.

* * *

IN my book, sure, if the Supreme Court rules that the nominees of the Go family, despite their resignation, should get the 10 board seats, the SM group should fill them.

I think it's just right.

In the same manner, the SM group should also answer for the missing P16 billion from the bank. Again, that's BILLION, with a "B"—okay!

The Go family, who sold out to the SM group, was supposed to put in P16 billion when they and the pension funds bought the then PCI Bank from the Lopez and the Gokongwei groups.

The pension funds put in their P16 billion, but the Go family did not. Yet, the Lopez and the Gokongwei groups got their P32 billion. So where did the money come from?

Based on EPCIB financial statements, the cash to pay for the P16-billion share of the Go family came from the bank itself.

In other words, the bank used some P16 billion of its own funds to cover for the Go family—which is, of course, now the SM group!

The P16 billion should be earning a lot of money for the bank and, consequently, its stockholders—such as the millions of working class members of the SSS and the GSIS.

In my book, since the SM group bought the interest of the Go family, the SM group should now cover for the P16 billion in bank funds that the Go family used. It's just right.

* * *

UNFORTUNATELY for us, SSS boss Cora de la Paz seems to have sold us, members of the SSS, down the river to the SM group.

De la Paz has been in favor of the SM group takeover of EPCIB, even if people in her own organization (the SSS, all right, and not SM group) think it is … well, "disadvantageous."

Several months ago, you see, we found out that the Go family cheated the SSS and the GSIS in that purchase of PCIB from the Gokongwei and the Lopez groups.

Immediately, our hero De la Paz, who claims to be a topnotch accountant-auditor, volunteered to audit the bank to find out the whole story behind the missing P16-billion.

Up to today, so many moons later, we have yet to hear from De la Paz about her findings. Just where exactly is that P16 billion, we still do not know.

But in my book, the most damning of De la Paz's sins to the SSS members is that she did not comment on the missing P16 billion, even if she has been in the EPCIB board for more than three years.

Oh, by the way, De la Paz also sits on the board of a subsidiary of the bank called Equitable Card Network. Our sources said that the company has more than a billion pesos in so-called "float."

In accounting parlance, it means that nobody knows where the money went.

And here we are, singing praises to the newfound interest in "corporate governance."

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Vehicle sales growth slows …

From page B1

trucks and trucks and buses to 8,389 units from 8,012 year-on-year.

Commercial vehicle sales cornered 61 percent of the overall automotive market with light commercial vehicles—consisting of pickups, vans, compact sports utility vehicles—taking up 56 percent of the commercial vehicle segment.

Sale of LCVs grew by 8 percent to 4,682 units and of light trucks by 21 percent to 240 units.

AUV sales barely changed at 3,411 units while sales of trucks and buses shrank by 13 percent to 56 units.

As for passenger cars, newly introduced models propped up year-on-year sales growth by 0.6 percent.

Car sales accounted for 39 percent of the market with 5,357 units sold, up marginally from 5,326 units a year ago.

In terms of total sales, Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. kept the lead with 40 percent of the market. It sold 5,503 units the previous two months, up by 26.5 percent.

Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp. was second with 12.4 percent of the market, but sold 1,709 units or a 17.9-percent setback.

Honda Cars Philippines Inc. came in third with 11.2 percent of the market with sales reaching 1,541 units or 7.1 percent higher.

The country's only exporter of completely built units, Ford shipped out 2,225 units or double what it exported in the first two months of 2005.

ROUND-UP

Gov't, ADB, WB discuss new loan scheme

THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY IS IN TALKS with the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) on the adoption of a new loan scheme that will do away with the government guarantee.

Neda Director General Romulo Neri said the proposed scheme would ease the government's fiscal burden as implementing agencies would now be responsible for the payment of their own loans taken out for projects and programs funded by official development assistance (ODA).

Thus, the national government would no longer have to allocate a separate budget for payment of ODA loans.

Neri said the World Bank and the ADB have not yet entered into a similar loan payment plan with other countries.

"The Philippines would be the first and the most ready to do it," Neri said.

He said the World Bank and the ADB are considering whether the proposed loan-payment scheme could be adopted this year.

The government intends to borrow about $900 million worth of ODAs to help plug the budget deficit and pay maturing foreign obligations. The World Bank, ADB and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) are the Philippines' biggest ODA providers. ***Michelle V. Remo***

LBP sets aside P1B for Mindanao projects

THE LAND Bank of the Philippines has set aside P1 billion to support agriculture projects in Mindanao.

LBP plans to finance contract-growing projects of farmers' cooperatives that supplies fresh pineapples to Dole Philippines Inc.; cavendish bananas for company Uni Frutti Inc. and the palm oil production of Agumil Philippines Inc. in Agusan.

"We may lend out P300 to P400 million for these farmers' cooperatives because Dole is even providing a repayment guarantee for 25 percent of the loan of these growers-suppliers," said Wilfredo C. Maldia, LBP first vice president and head of the Mindanao Branches Group, in an interview with the INQUIRER.

Maldia said that in the last two years, LBP granted these contract suppliers of Dole Philippines with a loan of P350 million.

Suppliers of exporter of cavendish bananas Uni Frutti Inc. based in Davao may also obtain some P400 million in production loans from the LBP.

"This is an increase from the P50 million we have provided cooperatives engaged in banana production last year," he added.

Agumil Philippines Inc., which is a joint venture between Filipino and Malaysian investors engaged in the planting and processing of palm oil in Agusan, plans to borrow P100 million from the bank.

"If there is a need to establish a post-harvest facility such as dryers and production warehouses, these could also be provided as part of the loans to be extended by the bank," Maldia said. ***Christine A. Gaylican***

PPA sets P2-B capex for 2006

THE PHILIPPINE Ports Authority will spend as much as P2 billion this year to upgrade the the country's seaports, especially those involved in roll-on, roll-off and provincial operations.

PPA executive assistant Raul Santos said the P2 billion to be allocated for capital expenditures this year would be sourced from "internally generated funds," even as he raised the possibility of getting additional funding from the Asian Development Bank and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation for PPA's developmental thrust.

At the same time, the PPA reiterated that the local port facilities are off limits to foreigners, as provided under the Constitution.

In a statement, PPA general manager Oscar M. Sevilla said that the restriction on foreign investment was laid down in the Public Service Act, which provides that, "Ownership, operations, and management or control of ports and docks in the Philippines constitutes 'public service'."

"To this end, the requirement is that the bidder or proposed operator 'must be a citizen of the Philippines or a corporation, partnership, association or joint-stock company constituted and organized under the laws of the Philippines'," he said.

Sixty percent of the port operator's paid up capital must be owned by a citizen of the Philippines, he said.

Sevilla made the statement "to address the apprehensions and issues raised relative to foreign investment in ports as a result of the privatization thrust" of the PPA. ***Daxim L. Lucas***

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Robinsons Land Bares Plans on Manila Gas Property

Robinsons Land Corp. (RLC), one of the country's leading property developers signed today with Manila Gas Corporation the purchase contract for the acquisition of the 4-hectare Manila Gas Property situated along Otis Road, Manila. RLC paid P573 million.

The sprawling Manila Gas property was won by RLC in a government bidding that was conducted last October 2005 wherein it edged out Ayala Land's Community Innovations, Inc.

The acquisition aims to add valuable land inventory for the highly diversified property giant.

The Gokongwei-owned company said RLC plans to fully maximize the value of the Manila Gas property by developing a mixed-use type development composed of a mall and upscale residential townhouses.

According to Danilo E. Ignacio, RLC-HRBD General Manager, "Otis 888 Residences is an upscale townhouse residential development. We plan to develop a big portion of the premium property into upscale townhouses composed of 3 to 4-bedrooms with price ranging from P6.5 million and up. Our main market will be the Fil-Chinese market residing in the Chinatown Area."

He adds, "Our newest upscale development and design fully reflects the discerning taste of our target clientele. Otis 888 Residences is a fitting name for a premium address designed for the privileged few."

"We have completed the overall master plan and we aim to launch this upscale property around April this year," Ignacio said.

Otis 888 Residences' strategic location of being 2 kilometers or less than 10 minutes away from the Binondo area offers a refreshing alternative for upscale living to Fil-Chinese.

He said, "As Chinatown is getting more congested, Otis 888 Residences will help address the growing needs of Fil-Chinese now looking for additional living space or have plans of investing in nearby residential properties for their growing families."

Adding comfort is its close proximity to nearby schools like St. Peters, St. Jude, Chiang Kai Shek, Uno, Malayan High School of Science, St. Stephen, UST, San Beda and much more.

"Otis 888 Residences' proximity to the Robinsons Mall, commercial establishments, schools and medical institutions will afford residents easy and safer access to basic needs," Ignacio disclosed.

For the Mall, RLC said plans are still underway as the company is carefully reviewing the ideal retail mix for the commercial portion of the mixed used development.

It is interesting to note that Robinsons Land's newest upscale property directly competes with Ayala's Celadon Property in San Lazaro for the Fil-Chinese market.

Recently, RLC also bought the 9.3-hectare Jardine Davies property at Merville that the giant developer envisions to be a mixed used development that will be composed of several residential thematic enclaves. It is located between Bicutan and Nichols interchange.

Robinsons Land Corporation is the real-estate arm of JG Summit Holdings, Inc., (JGSHI), one of the country's largest conglomerates with diverse interest in branded consumers foods, agro-industrial and commodity food products, textile, telecommunications, petrochemicals, air transportation and financial services

ADVT

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President
PHILIPPINE DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENCY
NIA Northside Road, National Government Center
Barangay Pinyahan, Quezon City

ANNOUNCEMENT

1. The Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), a government agency under the Office of the President of the Republic of the Philippines and created pursuant to Republic Act No. 9165, otherwise known as the "Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002", is now accepting applications to fill up one hundred (100) new positions for PDEA Drug Enforcement Officers.
2. The following are the vacant positions, together with the corresponding salary grade, number of slots, preferred education, and experience:

Position Title	Salary Grade	Nr. of Slots	Preferred Education	Experience
Investigation Agent III	22	6	Bachelor's Degree Relevant to the Job (Board Passer/CSC Prof Eligibility) (Preferably Lawyer/CPA)	3 years of relevant experience and 16 hours of relevant training
Intelligence Officer IV	22	4	Bachelor's Degree (Board Passer/CSC Prof Eligibility) (Preferably Lawyer/CPA)	3 years of relevant experience and 16 hours of relevant training
Intelligence Officer III	18	10	Bachelor's Degree (Board Passer/CSC Prof Eligibility)	2 years of relevant experience and 8 hours of relevant training
Investigation Agent I	18	10	Bachelor's Degree Relevant to the Job (Board Passer/CSC Prof Eligibility)	2 years of relevant experience and 8 hours of relevant training
Special Investigator II	15	10	Bachelor's Degree Relevant to the Job (Board Passer/CSC Prof Eligibility)	1 year of relevant experience and 4 hours of relevant training
Intelligence Officer II	15	20	Bachelor's Degree (Board Passer/CSC Prof Eligibility)	1 year relevant experience and 4 hours of relevant training
Intelligence Officer I	11	40	Bachelor's Degree (Board Passer/CSC Prof Eligibility)	No experience and training required
TOTAL		100		

3 Interested applicants must possess the following minimum qualifications:
   a. Filipino Citizen;
   b. At least 21 years of age and preferably below forty (40) years of age;
   c. Height: Preferably 5'4" for male and 5' for female;
   d. Must be physically and mentally fit;
   e. Of proven integrity and honesty and without criminal and/or derogatory records;
   f. Baccalaureate degree holder; and
   g. Passed the CSC Professional Eligibility Examination or Bar/Board Examination.
4. Interested applicants shall undergo the following phases of screening in order to qualify for the vacant positions:
   a. **FIRST PHASE**: The applicants shall take the written entrance examination (which shall include general knowledge, comprehension, IQ and aptitude test) to be administered by the PDEA on March 12, 2006 at any of the following testing centers and the results thereof shall be published a week later in newspapers of major circulation:
      1) Ramon Magsaysay High School, Quezon City for Metro Manila and Luzon
      2) Philippine Public Safety College (PPSC) Regional Training School 7 in Lahug, Cebu City for Visayas
      3) University of Mindanao, Bolton St., Davao City for Mindanao
   b. **SECOND PHASE**: Those who passed the written entrance examination shall undergo the neuro-psychiatric (NP) examination and background investigation.
   c. **THIRD PHASE**: Applicants who successfully passed the neuro-psychiatric examination and background investigation shall undergo physical fitness, medical, laboratory, and drug examinations.
   d. **FOURTH PHASE**: Those who successfully passed the previous phases shall undergo problem solving, essay-type and structured examination/interview.
   e. **FIFTH PHASE**: The PDEA Recruitment Committee shall select the best and brightest one hundred (100) applicants. It shall ensure that the results of every phase are published as soon as available, in the spirit of transparency.
5. Upon selection and appointment, the appointees shall undergo the six (6)-month basic training at the PDEA Academy, Camp Castañeda, Silang, Cavite.
6. Priority shall be given to applicants who are presently employed or utilized by the PDEA.
7. Personnel of the PNP, AFP and other government agencies who wish to apply shall undergo the same screening process and basic training.
8. Application Forms are available at the PDEA Academy, PDEA Annex Building, NIA Northside Road, National Government Center, Barangay Pinyahan, Quezon City and at all PDEA Regional Offices.
9. Please call Telephone Number 929-11-06 Local 178 for clarification and other related matters.

USEC ANSELMO S AVENIDO JR
Director General PDEA

(PDI - March 9 & 10, 2006)

Strengthening …

From page B1

be out of business should the peso continue to strengthen below the 50-to-a-dollar mark.

The government should help the export sector maintain competitiveness to ensure the economy is on track to meet its growth targets, he said.

Neri said an intervention by the BSP by purchasing dollars in the spot market would even help increase the country's gross international reserves (GIR). The downside, however, would be a buildup of peso liquidity that can create inflationary pressures.

Economists from the University of Asia and the Pacific (UA&P) earlier warned against letting the peso to strengthen further.

Victor Abola and Emilio Antonio, economics professors from the UA&P, suggested that the central bank intervene to bring the peso back to the 55-to-a-dollar level. They said if there was a practical way to achieve economic growth, that should be by boosting the export sector.

The economists warned that growth of the export sector, which already showed a substantial decline last year, would further be pulled down this year if the peso's strengthening would not be arrested.

Exports grew only 3.9 percent last year compared with the 10-percent growth target. In 2004, exports grew almost 10 percent.

Yesterday, the peso slid from a three-and-a-half year peak to close at its intraday low of 51.42:$1 as traders locked in gains after the local currency surged into the 50:$1 territory Tuesday.

Currency traders said the BSP, which heavily bought dollars to stem the peso's strong ascent only the previous day, turned into a dollar seller yesterday in defense of the local currency.

After hitting a high of 50.88 against the greenback Tuesday, the peso opened weak at 51.20, hit a high of 51.17 and finished at the day's low of 51.42.

The peso thus lost 36 centavos against the dollar from Tuesday's closing of 51.06:$1. Volume traded amounted to $613.5 million.

As the dollar had not fallen below 51 for a long time, these levels created demand from corporations with dollar requirements. They took advantage of the peso's stronger purchasing power to load up dollars for future importation or debt servicing requirements.

Stocks fall …

From page B1

the session as bargain hunters stepped in, rising 0.3 percent to P1,830.

ATR Kim Eng Securities research head Edgar Bancod said the broad selloff didn't appear confined to the domestic market, as the specter of higher interest rates has prompted selling in equities markets overseas.

"It's happening worldwide. There seems to be some programmed selling going on," said Bancod. *AP*

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of March 8, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	35.5	35.5	35.5	35.5	1,810,600
Bank of the Phil. Islands	59.5	59.5	59	59	2,817,200
China Banking Corp.	670	675	670	675	1,380
Citystate Savings Bank	19	19	19	19	500
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.4	0.41	20,870,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	62	63	61	63	469,700
International Exch. Bank	25	25	25	25	12,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	36	36	35	35.5	740,600
Philippine National Bank	31	31	31	31	16,000
Phil. Savings Bank	35	35	35	35	13,100
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12.75	12.75	12.75	12.75	3,400
Security Bank Corp.	37	37	37	37	215,700
Union Bank of the Phil.	34.5	34.5	34.5	34.5	4,100
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Bankard Inc.	0.78	0.78	0.75	0.75	110,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	3270	3270	3270	3270	590
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.97	100,000
Ivantage Corp.	0.79	0.79	0.78	0.78	1,220,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	44.5	45	44.5	45	933,800
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	42	42.5	42	42.5	151,500
Manila Electric Co. A	12.75	12.75	12.75	12.75	5,200
Manila Electric Co. B	19.5	19.75	19.25	19.5	1,198,500
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.4	6.5	6.3	6.3	2,284,000
Petron Corp.	4.45	4.5	4.35	4.45	6,692,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.25	300,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.91	30,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	262,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	19.5	19.5	19.25	19.25	20,500
Jollibee Foods Corp.	35	35	33.5	34.5	609,200
RFM Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	350,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	20,000
San Miguel Corp. A	61.5	61.5	61	61.5	50,300
San Miguel Corp. B	81	81	78.5	80	91,200
Universal Robina Corp.	17.5	17.75	17.5	17.75	377,800
Vitarich Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	530,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.29	0.3	0.29	0.29	950,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.2	1.22	376,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.1	4.15	4.1	4.15	409,000
CHEMICALS					
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	1,000
Interphil Labs Inc. A	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	20,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	170,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	12,900,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	5,400,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.74	0.78	0.63	0.68	8,060,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	5,000,000
Ayala Corp.	340	340	330	335	99,080
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	250,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5	5.3	5	5.2	4,005,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	36,600,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.48	2.5	2.46	2.46	895,000
APC Group Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	10,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0055	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	10,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.87	0.87	0.86	0.86	1,120,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	2,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.6	45,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.95	0.96	0.94	0.95	4,370,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.05	3.1	3.05	3.1	60,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	2.02	2.04	2.02	2.04	276,000
House of Investments Inc.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	190,000
JG Summit Holdings Inc.	5.1	5.2	5.1	5.2	876,000
Medco Holdings	0.25	0.29	0.25	0.27	3,480,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.16	0.16	0.15	0.15	40,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.36	0.36	0.28	0.3	610,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	500,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.245	0.245	0.24	0.24	860,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1	1	1	1	10,000
Solid Group Inc	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	700,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	2,990,000
SM Investments Corp.	220	223	216	218	720,580
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.39	0.41	0.39	0.41	170,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	1,000,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	1,850,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	10.75	10.75	10	10.25	9,588,900
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	120,000
Belle Corp.	0.96	0.97	0.95	0.97	2,200,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.235	0.235	0.23	0.23	1,730,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	1.74	1.76	1.7	1.76	2,290,000
Cebu Prop. Vent B	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	50,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225	500,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.21	0.21	440,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.44	0.45	0.44	0.45	3,710,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	2,100,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.2	1.22	1.16	1.18	12,368,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.205	0.205	0.2	0.205	1,880,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	1,000,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	300,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.42	1.42	1.4	1.42	7,019,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	3,570,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.48	0.48	0.4	0.43	24,900,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	10,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.21	0.22	0.21	0.22	1,170,000
SM Development Corp.	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	33,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.7	7.7	7.6	7.7	13,418,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	650,000
SERVICE					
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	8,800
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.88	0.9	0.88	0.9	730,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	840	840	810	815	35,090
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.15	3.15	3.1	3.1	402,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co	1805	1830	1800	1830	146,640
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.185	0.185	4,250,000
Imperial Res.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	21,000,000
Ionics Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	10,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.047	0.048	0.047	0.048	4,500,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.05	0.05	0.048	0.048	4,400,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	20,000
Philweb Corp.	0.026	0.026	0.025	0.026	46,000,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.96	1.96	1.96	1.96	20,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	12	12.25	12	12.25	1,760,700
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.98	160,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.3	1.38	1.3	1.38	100,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.76	1.76	1.72	1.74	1,503,000
Manila Jockey Club	3	3	3	3	22,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.27	900,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	1,030,000
EDUCATION					
Ipeople Inc.	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	19,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	2,000
Paxys Inc.	8.3	8.3	8.2	8.2	461,000
MINING & OIL					
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	1	1	0.99	1	280,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	1.14	1.18	1.14	1.14	731,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0065	0.0065	0.006	0.0065	61,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	6.9	6.9	6.7	6.8	1,524,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.205	0.205	0.2	0.205	6,650,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.245	0.25	0.245	0.25	420,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	17,900,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	30,200,000
Omico Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	1,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	1.76	1.76	1.72	1.76	6,699,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.92	1.92	1.86	1.88	15,040,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	41,800
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.235	0.235	0.23	0.23	600,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	13,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	11,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	200,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	20,000
PREFERRED					
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	100
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	122,000

CURRENCIES

March 8, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.841255	1.000000	50.9630
Japan	Yen	0.007136	0.008482	0.4323
United Kingdom	Pound	1.460419	1.736000	88.4718
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.108398	0.128853	6.5667
Switzerland	Franc	0.640517	0.761383	38.8024
Canada	Dollar	0.731590	0.869641	44.3195
Singapore	Dollar	0.515728	0.613046	31.2427
Australia	Dollar	0.617752	0.734322	37.4233
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.232334	2.653576	135.2342
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.224335	0.266667	13.5902
Brunei	Dollar	0.514152	0.611172	31.1472
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000091	0.000108	0.0055
Thailand	Baht	0.021560	0.025628	1.3061
UAE	Dirham	0.229069	0.272294	13.8769
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.188700	60.5797
Argentina	Peso	0.273357	0.324939	16.5599
Brazil	Real	0.388876	0.462257	23.5580
Denmark	Kroner	0.134088	0.159390	8.1230
India	Rupee	0.019016	0.022604	1.1520
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.226570	0.269324	13.7256
Mexico	New Peso	0.078917	0.093809	4.7808
New Zealand	Dollar	0.545738	0.648719	33.0607
Norway	Kroner	0.125211	0.148838	7.5852
Pakistan	Rupee	0.014049	0.016700	0.8511
South Africa	Rand	0.134172	0.159490	8.1281
Korea	Won	0.000861	0.001024	0.0522
Sweden	Kroner	0.105744	0.125698	6.4059
Syria	Pound	0.016206	0.019264	0.9818
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025904	0.030792	1.5693
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000392	0.000466	0.0237

AEV obtains ₱2.2B in loans

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

ABOITIZ EQUITY VENTURES, the flagship firm of the Cebu-based Aboitiz family, recently got P2.2 billion worth of five-year loans from Bank of the Philippine Islands and International Exchange Bank.

The loan will be used largely to finance new hydroelectric power projects.

AEV will build two hydroelectric power plants in Davao with a combined generation capacity of 70 megawatts. Construction will start in the first quarter next year, chief finance officer Stephen Paradies said.

AEV, with Norwegian partner SN Power Invest AS, will also bid for power generation assets to be auction off by National Power Corp.

AEV is interested in the 100-MW Pantabangan and 12-MW Masiway plants in Nueva Ecija. It is also planning to bid for the 360-MW Magat plant in Isabela.

SN Power, AEV's partner, is engaged in developing and operating hydropower projects in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

AEV, through unit Hydroelectric Development Corp. (Hedcor), is the country's biggest mini-hydropower development firm, controlling more than P3.3 billion worth of hydropower generation assets.

Hedcor was the first company to win the bidding for a Napocor asset. It won in March 2004 the auction for the 3.5-megawatt Talomo mini-hydropower plant in Davao for $1.37 million.

AEV has interests in power generation, power distribution, banking, food and transport.

SM starts construction of e-commerce facility

SM INVESTMENTS CORP., OF mall magnate Henry Sy, yesterday broke ground on its P1.5-billion e-commerce building.

Dubbed OneE-comCenter, the building sits on a 94,000-square-meter lot right at the 60-hectare SM Central Business Park near Manila Bay. The project is slated for completion in July 2007.

OneE-comCenter is a 10-story building with leasable area of 67,900 square meters. Seven floors will be for office space, two-and-a-half floors for parking, and the ground floor for commercial uses.

Apart from BPOs, call centers, back office operations and other e-commerce-related companies, OneE-comCenter will also accommodate financial services, consulting services, and even tourism-related offices. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

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intel Pentium M inside

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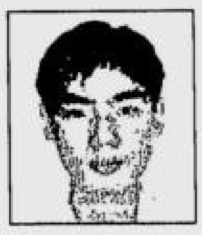
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Merhan Unit
Alcantara Agency

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Reyes Unit
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Edwin Macabeo
Macabeo Unit
Macabea Agency

Myrna Yu
Beltran Unit
Alcantara Agency

Mary D. Abad
Abad Unit
Alcantara Agency

Minda Presbitero
Presbitero Unit
Alcantara Agency

Narciso Dumalagan
Dumalagan Unit
Alcantara Agency

Rosemarie Chua
Chua Unit
Cuevas Agency

Debbie Co
Tung Unit
Cuevas Agency

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Mangapit Unit
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Sangalang Unit
Alcantara Agency

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N. Remoto Unit
Cuevas Agency

1.9M and Up Producers

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Zhuang Unit
Cuevas Agency

(+) Mercedes Mijares
Mijares Unit
Alcantara Agency

Kenney Tung
Tung Unit
Cuevas Agency

Vivien S. Panopio
Panopio Unit
Panopio Agency

Miriam Diato
Diato Unit
Pineda Agency

Jimbee Marson Yu
Yu Unit
Cuevas Agency

Melissa Yaneza
Yaneza Unit
Alcantara Agency

Julie G. Reyes
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Alcantara Agency

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Abad Unit
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Concepcion Tagapong
Orteza Unit
Cabrera Agency

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Alcantara Agency

Maribel Masalta
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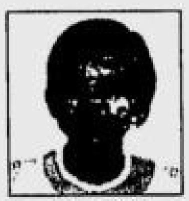
Alcantara Agency

Bethsaida Mandia
Yaneza Unit
Alcantara Agency

Senen Saniano
Abad Unit
Alcantara Agency

Flor Calupitan
Lirio Unit
Alcantara Agency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Reyes Unit
Alcantara Agency

Beth M. Papas
Papas Unit
Alcantara Agency

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Tung Unit
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Alcantara Agency

Noemi Valdez
Sangalang Unit
Alcantara Agency

Epifanio Romero III
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Cuevas Agency

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Eduardo Rabaya
Rabaya Unit
Pineda Agency

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Leyson Agency

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Pineda Unit
Pineda Agency

Ramil Ordoñez
Ordoñez Unit
Ordoñez/Tayson Agency

Romeo Gacutan
Alfaro Unit
Gacutan Agency

Julita Lapuz
Lapuz Unit
Alcantara Agency

Justina Cajiles
Reyes Unit
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Mendoza Unit
Salmorin Agency

Emmanuel Itable
Itable Unit
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Tayson Unit
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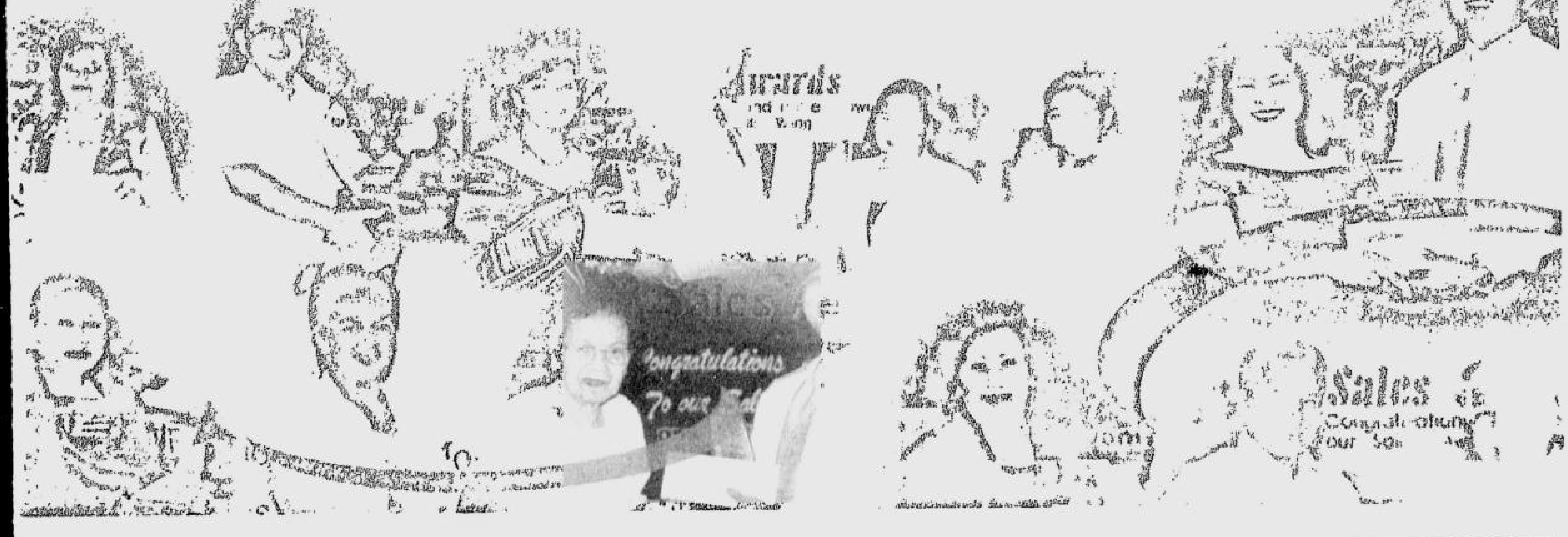
Yaneza Unit
Alcantara Agency

Claudine Ang
Tung Unit
Cuevas Agency

Arceli A. Ancheta
Ancheta Unit
Alcantara Agency



Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON AUDIT
Regional Office No. X
Carmen, Cagayan de Oro City 9000
☎ (088) 858-7422, (088) 858-1498
✉: coar10@websprinter.net

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Procurement of IT Equipments and other PPE Items

1. The Commission on Audit, Region X, intends to apply the sum of Four Million Nine Hundred Forty-Seven Thousand Pesos (Php 4,947,000.00) broken down as follows:

ITEM	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	Sub-ABC
Lot I	67 units **COMPUTERS**, Branded CPU compatible with 32 bit-64bit simultaneously, 1.8 GHz Capable to run on multiple platforms 1 MB cache level 2 On-board graphics controller 512 MB Memory, dual memory channel, 3 x 6.4 Gbps hypertransport link With built-in Firewire ports (IEEE1394) 80 GB Serial ATA, 7200 rpm DVD ROM Drive 15" color monitor Keyboard & mouse with pad AVR 500W 3 yrs warranty	Php 3,819,000.00
	1 unit **COMPUTER**, Branded CPU compatible with 32 bit-64bit simultaneously, 1.8 GHz Capable to run on multiple platforms 1 MB cache level 2 On-board graphics controller 1 GB Memory, dual memory channel, 3 x 6.4 Gbps hypertransport link With built-in Firewire ports (IEEE1394) 80 GB Serial ATA, 7200 rpm DVD ROM Drive 15" color monitor Keyboard & mouse with pad AVR 500W 3 yrs warranty	65,000.00
	30 units **UNINTERRUPTED POWER SUPPLY**, 650 VA (410W)	201,000.00
	20 units **COMPUTER TABLE**, Steel Frame, SIGMA	60,000.00
	14 units **PRINTERS**, Hp Laser Jet Print Speed: up to 19ppm resolution: up to 1200 x 1200 dpi Memory: 8MB	280,000.00
	3 units **LAPTOP COMPUTERS**, Branded Centrino duo (core duo processor) Processor Speed: 2.0 GHz/533 MHz FSB, 2-MB L2 cache RAM: DDR2 SDRAM 512 MB Floppy Drive: 1.44 MB CD Drive: CR-RW/ DVD-ROM Combo Drive Hard Disk Drive: 50 GB 5400 rpm Serial ATA NIC: 10/100 Mbps Keyboard and Mouse Modem: RJ-11 Modem Audio Port OEM: Windows XP Professional	252,000.00 Php 4,677,000.00
Lot II	**FIBER OPTIC BACKBONE & ACTIVE COMPONENTS:** 200 mts. Fiber Optic Cable, 8 core, multi-mode 2 units Fiber Optic Panel, 8 port 2 units Fiber Optic Cable Manager, 2 RU with cover 16 units Fiber Optic Connectors 2 units Fiber Optic Patch Cord 1 unit Data Cabinet, Floor mount, 6ft, plexiglass with exhaust fan 1 unit 3Com Baseline Switch, 24 port 10/100, 2-10/100/1000 2 units 3Com 1000Base SX SFP transceiver 1 lot Cable Laying Works & Materials 1 lot Fiber Optic Termination & Connection Works VAT 12%	Php 270,000.00

being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Procurement of IT Equipments and other PPE items. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.

2. Interested Bidders may obtain a complete set of Bidding Documents starting March 13 to 16, 2006 upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Five Hundred Pesos (Php 500.00) from the BAC Secretariat, c/o RCD Hesselinda A. Valencia, ☎ (088) 858-7422, COA Regional Office No. X, Cagayan de Oro City
3. The Commission on Audit will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on March 17, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. at COA Conference Room, COA Regional Office No. X Cagayan de Oro City.
4. Deadline for submission of Bids shall be on March 30, 2006, at 2:00 p.m., at COA Regional Office No. X, Cagayan de Oro City. Immediately after the deadline, bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the above address.
5. The Commission on Audit reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) **FELIX P. ALBINDA**
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
☎ (088) 858-2964
✉ fpalbinda@yahoo.com

(PDI--March 9 & 15, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF THE STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE AND COMPLIANCE PLAN TO THE PHILIPPINES GRID CODE AND THE PHILIPPINE DISTRIBUTION CODE PURSUANT TO THE PROVISION OF R.A. 9136

ERC CASE NO. 2003-213

BENGUET ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (BENECO),
Applicant.
x- -x

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given of the filing by Benguet Electric Cooperative, Inc. (BENECO) on May 09, 2003 of an application for approval of its statement of Compliance and Compliance Plan to the Philippine Grid Code and the Philippine Distribution Code pursuant to Republic Act No. 9136.

The Commission has set the application for hearing on March 15, 2006 at three o'clock in the afternoon (3:00 P.M.) at the ERC Hearing Room, 15th Floor Pacific Center Bldg., San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

All interested parties who may wish to comment on or oppose the said application should file their comments and/or oppositions on or before the date of hearing. Such parties who may wish to have the details of the application and who shall have manifested to the Commission their desire and intention to participate actively in the proceedings, may request that before the date of hearing, they be furnished with copies of the application by the applicant which is hereby directed to furnish the parties making such request with copies of the application and its attachments. Likewise, any such interested party may examine the application and other pertinent records filed with the Commission during the usual office hours.

WITNESS, the Honorables **OLIVER B. BUTALID, JESUS N. ALCORDO, RAUF A. TAN** and **ALEJANDRO Z. BARIN**, Commissioners, Energy Regulatory Commission, this 13th day of February, 2006 at Pasig City.

(Sgd.) **MARIA TERESA A. RAMIREZ-CASTAÑEDA**
Executive Director III

(PDI–March 9, 2006)

PNOC
PNOC-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Energy Complex, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City 1634
Tel. No. 893-1320, Local 5285 / 5282

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND BID / REBID

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation is inviting all interested suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following

Particular Item	Approved Budget
60 Units of 15 KVA Distribution Transformers Under FGJ 50703	PHP 2,772,000.00
Allen Bradley and Eurothern Spare Parts Under FGE 52020	PHP2,175,000.00

Eligibility forms and bidding documents shall be available for issuance at the above address c/o Roderick R. Cabantog and **Maria Cristina Lynn M. Mercado** starting **March 9, 2006**, from 9.30 AM to 3:30 PM and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P400.00 per document.

For purposes of clarifying certain matters, a pre-bidding conference shall be held on **March 17, 2006, 2:00 p.m.** at the above address.

Applications for eligibility and sealed bids shall be submitted to and registered with the PNOC-EDC Supply Management Department at the above address and thereafter dropped in the padlocked bid box thereat not later than **2:00 p.m.** (Supply Management Department Office Wall Clock time) on **March 31, 2006**. Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. **Late bids shall not be accepted.**

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to the bidding terms and conditions, as required, and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. Source of funding is from Internal Cash Generation of PNOC-EDC. All bids should be within the Approved Budget for the Contract in order to qualify.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground(s) for PNOC-EDC's action.

(PDI - March 9 & 16, 2006)

Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee II

FLEET MANAGEMENT SERVICES PHILIPPINES, INC.
Suite 500, Puso ng Maynila Building
1046 A. Mabini Street cor. U.N. Avenue
Ermita, Manila

AFFIDAVIT OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that Fleet Management Services Philippines, Inc. Stock Certificate Nos. 1 and 7 for 7,497 and 1,250 shares respectively, in the name of Atty. A.B.F. Gaviola, Jr.; 8 for 1,250 shares in the name of Ms. Ma. Corazon D. Cruz and 9 for 1 share in the name of Ms. Jeannette T. Tumbali were reported lost, per their affidavits on file.

Anyone who may have claims against the above may notify the office.

If no claims are presented within 1 year from the last date of publication, replacement certificates therefor will be issued.

Manila, February 16, 2006.

(Sgd.) **MARIE JOSEPHINE C. SUAREZ**
Corporate Secretary

(PDI--March 9, 16 & 23, 2006)

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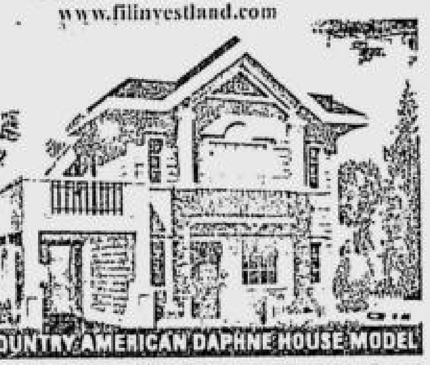

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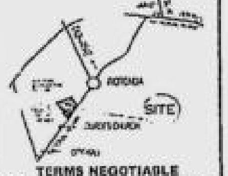

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

GINA JANO Y DE JUAN is no longer connected with MONDO effective February 10, 2006. A complaint for QUALIFIED THEFT against her is pending before the Office of the Prosecutor of San Juan, Metro Manila with I.S. # 06-0085 2. Any dealings by her in behalf of MONDO shall not be honored.

(PDI--March 9, 2006)

Holy Spirit You who gives me everything & show me the way to reach my ideal & who give me the Divine gift to forgive & forget the wrong that is done to me. I, in this short dialogue want to thank You for everything & confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You no matter how great the material desires may be, I want to be with You & my loved ones in your Perpetual Glory Amen.

-R. Esguerra

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OBITUARIES

"I Tobit, have walked all the days of my life on the paths of truth and righteousness. I performed many charitable works for my kinsmen and my peoples.."
Tobit 1:3

WINSTON CABRERA MUNGCAL

National Head, Gawad Kalinga Tatag Program
President, Parish Pastoral Council, Sanctuario de San Pedro Bautista
Former Governance Team Member, West B Sector, Couples for Christ
PDD, PFN, PGK, Knights of Columbus, Council 6116

In Peace and Grace joined our Lord Father and his parents
GREGORIO & FELICIDAD** and his brother **PEY
on March 7, 2006 at the age of 53.

His bereaved wife **PRECY**; children **PIA, PJ** and his future daughter-in-law **ABI**; brothers and sisters **BOY & MENCHU, ALEX & BELEN, JUN & CONNIE, GIRLIE, DULCE & JEREMY LACSON** and **RUBY**; nephews, nieces, relatives and friends, request the pious reader to join them in prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Sanctuario de San Pedro Bautista Parish, 69 San Pedro Bautista St., San Francisco del Monte, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, March 14, 2006 at the
Holy Cross Memorial Park after the 8:30 A.M. requiem MASS.

OBITUARIES

The Officers and Staff of
Universal
UNIVERSAL ADJUSTERS-APPRAISERS CO., INC.
UNIVERSAL ADJUSTERS-APPRAISERS CO., INC.
Mourn the passing of our beloved
PRESIDENT & CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

SANTIAGO I. MACARAEG

November 3, 1936 – March 7, 2006
at the age of 69.

His body lies in state at HOLY TRINITY (Premier Chapel) located at A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on March 11, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. at Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City.

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Death Notices

Dr. Stephen G. Reyes
Died on March 1, 2006
His body lies at St. Therese of Child Jesus Chapel, UP College, Los Banos, Laguna.
Interment will be on March 12 at Los Banos Memorial Cemetery.

For your Classified Ads requirements, call our Classifieds Advertising HOTLINES:

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MAKATI: 892-5578; 811-4361; 811-4370
KALAW: 528-0213; 527-3342
MEGAMALL: 635-0219; 635-0220

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Tel. Nos. 712-3001, 743-6502; Manila- 711-6931 to 35

NAME OF DECEASED	PLACE OF [illegible]	INTERMENT/CREMATION	
		DATE & TIME	PLACE
Maria Hidalgo Duclayan	Chapel C-12, Q.C.	03/09/06; 9:00 a.m.	Paz Crematory
Atty. Antonio Z. Mabago	Chapel J, Q.C	03/09/06; 8:00 a.m.	Holy Cross Mem. Park
Leoncia E. Casos	Chapel B-5, Q.C.	03/11/06; 9:00 a.m.	Paz Crematory

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NATIONAL
CLASSIFIEDS

More Classified Ads on pages A2, A8, A9, A10, B2 & B7.

UAE lifts ban on RP processed meat exports

Halal certifying body accredited

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, CONSIDERED the gateway to the multi-billion dollar halal food market of the Middle East, has lifted the ban on Philippine processed meat and chicken products after authorities accredited a local halal certification body that would determine whether shipments are fit for the Middle East market.

Abdul Rahman RT Linzag, president of the Islamic Da'wah Council of the Philippines (IDCP), said his group was deemed competent to certify local products as halal following a visit of UAE food officials to the Philippines in mid-2005.

Halal is an Arabic word that means "permissible" and, in relation to consumables, refers to products that Muslims are allowed to use, eat and drink.

The visit of the UAE mission—headed by the Assistant Secretary General of the UAE General Secretariat of Municipalities, the executive body that unites the different emirates, was aimed at assessing the possibility of resuming the purchase of halal food products from the Philippines.

Two years ago, the UAE had stopped the entry of an undetermined volume of Philippine-made products due to the absence of proper certification that the products were prepared following Islamic requirements.

Linzag said the UAE team was expected to return to the Philippines to certify poultry processing facilities in Laguna, Bulacan and other parts of the country.

"This is the essence of halal certification-the authorities want to make sure that everything used in and done to the products are halal--from the inputs used to the preparation and packaging of the products," Linzag explained.

"The ban (on local animal-based products) meant a significant loss for our export industry," Linzag said.

The UAE, with its busy ports and active trading, accounts for a substantial portion of the $150-billion-a-year global halal food market.

Philippine shipments first got involved in a controversy in the UAE when food authorities seized cargoes of Philippine-made 'halal' products in March 2004.

Linzag said the fiasco was a result of producers not following the strict rules of halal production.

So far, IDCP is the only halal-certifying body in the country recognized by concerned international agencies such as the Jakarta-based World Halal Council.

New terminal at DMIA planned

By Daxim L. Lucas

A CONSORTIUM COMPOSED OF THE AMA Group of Companies and the government of the Kingdom of Bahrain has unveiled plans to build a passenger terminal at the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport (DMIA) in Pampanga under the build-operate-transfer scheme.

In a statement, AMA Group vice president Juanito G. Ramos Jr. said the Bahraini government was "extremely interested to invest in the building of a modern passenger terminal and cargo facility" in Clark.

The plan to further develop DMIA was "one of the most significant developments" of the recently held bilateral air consultations between the Philippines and Bahrain.

"The realization of this project would drastically alleviate air traffic and congestion at the Naia airport as it reaches capacity," Ramos said.

Before the air talks started, officials of Clark Development Corp. (CDC) and Clark International Airport Corp., which owns and operates the airport, hosted a tour for the visiting delegation led by Bahrain Undersecretary for Civil Aviation Affairs Abdulrahman Mohamed Al Gaoud and top officials of Gulf Air, the flag carrier airline of Bahrain.

Mindanao as IT hub: Focus on contact center services - Part II

MINDANAWORLD

Joji Ilagan-Bian

CYBERSERVICES IS A NEW TERM that describes services delivered via cyberspace. These are information technology-driven services such as call centers, medical transcription, back office operations and animation.

Call center services is the largest sector in the local IT industry, accounting for 63 percent of the sector's total workforce. The Philippines has expanded its offerings—which used to focus on inbound customer support and outbound telemarketing—to include more technical support service such as computer hardware troubleshooting. We are currently at par with global standards, closely competing with India and China.

As the sector grows to greater heights, large call center companies are expanding its reach across the nation, seeking more competitive labor costs, and cheaper infrastructure and operational expenses. Southern Philippines is targeted as the next destination of growth.

Is Mindanao ready?

In its recent report, the Commission on Information and Communications Technology (CICT) projected that the call center sector would have to employ 388,000 agents to meet client needs in 2010. In order to deliver this, call centers should not limit their Mindanao activities on recruitment for relocation purposes alone. Setting base is inevitable considering the many perks offered by Mindanao cities—the availability of cheaper and reliable power and communication infrastructure, less expensive cost of living, good incentives for IT firms and numerous vendor support.

Mindanao is also opening itself to advancement as it targets cyberservices to be the industry that will not only boost the economy, but will also secure its people from leaving home. The redistribution of wealth, the return of talents, increased commercial activity and more investments from other sectors are positive effects of call center presence in the provinces.

Local communities and its leaders recognize Mindanao's potentials in providing call center needs in the near future. This sparked interests from various groups and business organizations to cooperate and unify in order to make Mindanao cities an attractive and suitable locations for the industry's growth.

Next IT Hub

The widespread investment promotion campaign staged by various Mindanao stakeholders captured the interest of some of the well-known call centers and prompted them to visit major Mindanao cities for possible expansion. So far, Cagayan de Oro and Davao City attracted four call center companies. My very own company, Joji Ilagan Foundation Inc., will be operating a state-of-the-art training academy for call center agents and personnel in partnership with John F. Kennedy Foundation, and a call center. The academy will open in April and the call center, in June this year. The training center will help ensure the availability of skilled manpower to serve the needs of IT investors and BPOs that intend to locate their businesses in Davao and nearby cities like Gen. Santos.

Mindanao recognizes its capacity to deliver investor requirements in setting up call center operations. We produce competent professionals with excellent reasoning skills, English communication and computer skills, and workers flexible in various work environments. And of course, Mindanaoans are famous for being friendly, courteous and industrious individuals—a plus point in this line of work.

Mindanao, however, has its own challenges and limitations. For one, not all cities have IT parks and zones, and this discourages IT investors who seek additional incentives that an IT park/zone could offer and flexible requirements. Most of the cities are yet to follow Cagayan de Oro's Pueblo de Oro IT Park, the first of its kind that houses an international call center.

There is no reason why Davao and Cagayan and the rest of Mindanao cannot become the IT hub for the Southern part of the country and of the East Asean region.

After all, everything else is in place—competent manpower and adequate communications and transportation infrastructures.

(Joji Ilagan Bian is an advocate for Mindanao ; chair of the Mindanao TVET and Mindanao representative to Export Development Council. E-mail comments to jojibian2@yahoo.com)

Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN
Ombudsman Building, Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City

OFFICE ORDER NO. 05-303
Series of 2005
TO ALL CONCERNED
SUBJECT CUSTOMIZED CODE OF CONDUCT FOR OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN INVOLVED IN THE PROCUREMENT PROCESS
DATE . OCTOBER 20, 2005

I. PURPOSE

Procurement involves disbursement of public funds or funds placed under its official custody and the basic rule is that such funds should be properly spent by the Office. If the procurement is well managed by those involved in the procurement process, then, corruption and wastage of resources are avoided.

The Office of the Ombudsman is committed to the principle of good governance and it has exerted efforts to adhere to the principle of transparency, accountability, equity, efficiency, competitiveness and economy in the conduct of its procurement of Goods (all items, supplies, materials, equipment and general services) and Consulting Services and in contracting Infrastructure Projects. To ensure the integrity of the procurement process in the Office, it is essential to establish a customized Code of Conduct for all its officials and employees involved in the procurement process.

II. SCOPE

This customized Code of Conduct shall apply to all officials and employees of the Office who are involved in the procurement process, namely: the BAC, the TWG, the TIG, the BAC secretariat, the PMS / GSD, the FMS, the Accounting Division, the Planning and Budget Division, the Cashiering Unit, the Officials who are signatories to the Contracts / Agreements and the respective end-users.

III. POLICIES AND RULES

Section 1. Definition of Terms

As used herein, the term:

1.a Procurement – refers to the acquisition of Goods and Consulting Services, and the contracting for Infrastructure Projects by the Office of the Ombudsman.
1.b Goods – refer to all items, supplies, materials, equipment and general support services.
1.c Consulting Services – refer to services for Infrastructure Projects and other types of projects or activities of Government requiring adequate external technical and professional expertise including advisory and review services, pre-investment or feasibility studies, design, construction supervision, management and related services, and other technical services or special studies.
1.d Infrastructure Projects / Civil Works – include the construction, improvement, rehabilitation, demolition, repair restoration or maintenance of roads and bridges, railways, airports, seaports, communication facilities, civil works components of information technology projects, irrigation, flood control and drainage, water supply, sanitation, sewerage & solid waste management systems, shore protection, energy / power and electrification facilities, national buildings, school buildings, hospital buildings and other related construction projects of the government.
1.e Code – refers to the customized Code of Conduct for the Office of the Ombudsman BAC and the other Committees / Offices involved in procurement.
1.f Office – refers to the Office of the Ombudsman.
1.g Gift – refers to a thing disposed of gratuitously in favor of another, and shall include a simulated sale or a disposition onerous to the giver.
1.h Benefit – refers to a right, privilege, entertainment, exemption or any other similar act of liberality in favor of another.
1.i BAC Secretariat – refers to the members of the support staff to the Bids and Awards Committee and the custodians of the procurement records.
1.j Suppliers / Contractors – refer to persons or group of persons, or entities that supply Goods and Consulting Services and contract for Infrastructure Projects.
1.k BAC – Bids and Awards Committee
1.l TWG – Technical Working Group
1.m TIG – Technical Inspection Group
1.n PMS – Property Management Section
1.o GSD – General Services Division
1.p IRR-A – Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A
1.q COA – Commission on Audit
1.r NGO – Non-Government Organization
1.s PS-DBM – Procurement Service Department of Budget and Management
1.t FMS – Finance and Management Services
1.u End-user – refers to the officers and employees of the unit for which the Goods, Consulting Services and Infrastructure Projects are intended.
1.v Signatories to the Contract – refer to the Officials who execute and sign the contract / agreement for the Office.

Section 2. General Provisions

The Chairman and Members of the Ombudsman BAC, TWG, TIG, the BAC Secretariat, and the officials and employees of the PMS / GSD, FMS, Planning and Budget Division, Accounting Division, Cashiering Unit, and the signatories to the contract, while in the performance of their duties and responsibilities as such, shall:

2.a Adhere strictly to the principles and provisions of laws and rules promoting transparency, accountability, equity, efficiency, professionalism, competitiveness and economy in procurement
2.b Strictly avoid all situations that may give rise or tend to give rise to situations of conflict of interests or suspicions of conflict of interests. Should a conflict of interest arise, pursuant to Rule V of OMB Office Order Number 05-13 dated January 24, 2005, on the Norms of Behavior for Officials and Employees of the Office of the Ombudsman, it shall be the duty of the concerned official or employee to immediately disclose the same to his/her immediate supervisor and terminate the same, by way of a written declaration hereof. The written declaration on conflict of interest may be done periodically or for every contracting process.
2.c Absolutely refrain from soliciting and/or accepting, directly or indirectly, gifts and benefits for themselves or for others, from the suppliers, contractors and/or consultants regardless of whether or not said suppliers, contractors and/or consultants are transacting business with the Office of the Ombudsman.
2.d Absolutely refrain from accepting invitations or offers from suppliers, contractors and/or consultants or their representatives for meetings and conferences outside the Office.
2.e Strictly refrain from having personal contacts or interactions with suppliers, contractors and/or consultants. The latter are not allowed to enter the office premises, unless necessary to transact official business in which case their stay shall not be longer than what is required to finish their official transaction.
2.f Strictly adhere to the mandated time frames as provided for in Republic Act No. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.
2.g Refrain from unduly influencing or exerting, undue pressure upon any member of the BAC or any officer or employee of the procuring entity or office to take a particular action which favors, or tends to favor a particular supplier, contractor and/or consultant.
2.h Strictly refrain from inviting as guests and getting as ninongs, ninangs, sponsors or donors the suppliers / contractors and/or consultants transacting business with the Office to avoid closeness and familiarity as well as the perception that undue benefit and/or advantage is being given to the member concerned of the BAC, TWG, TIG, PMS/GSD, BAC Secretariat, FMS, Planning and Budget Division, Accounting Division, Cashiering Unit, as well as signatories to the contract.
2.i Strictly observe the norms of behavior enunciated under Office Order Number 05-13 dated January 24, 2005, particularly on the provisions relating to Conflict of Interests and Confidentiality of proceedings.

Section 3. Specific Provisions

3.1 For the Bids and Awards Committee –
The BAC, in the performance of its duties and responsibilities, shall:
3.1.a Only have official contacts with suppliers, contractors and/or consultants whenever necessary during the pre-bid conference and opening of bids.
3.1.b Refrain from entertaining procurement transactions/queries from suppliers, contractors and/or consultants except through the BAC Secretariat.
3.1.c Attend the regular meetings of the BAC as scheduled.

3.2 For the BAC Secretariat –
The BAC Secretariat, in the performance of its duties and responsibilities, shall:
3.2.a Only have official contacts with suppliers, contractors and/or consultants whenever necessary during the bidding process.
3.2.b Prepare the necessary report/s and proper recording of all procurement transactions to ensure accountability and transparency.
3.2.c Be under the direct control, supervision and monitoring of the BAC.

3.3 For theTechnical Working Group –
The TWG, in the performance of its duties and responsibilities, shall:
3.3.a Only have official contacts with the concerned suppliers, contractors and/or consultants whenever necessary during the pre-bid conference, the opening of bids, the evaluation and post qualification process, and before submission of the Evaluation Report.
3.3.b Conduct ocular inspections of the suppliers, contractors and/or consultants' business offices, premises, warehouses, outlets, stores and factories unannounced. The date of ocular inspection and the team to conduct the ocular inspection shall be specified by and with authority from the BAC for monitoring purposes. In no case shall the TWG use other resources than that of the Office in the conduct of ocular inspection.
3.3.c Prepare a brief report for the BAC after every ocular inspection indicating the itinerary of travel and the expenses incurred. Claims for refund of expenses shall be properly documented and in compliance with the existing auditing and accounting rules and regulations.
3.3.d Prepare the Technical Evaluation Report and submit the same to the BAC within the prescribed period pursuant to RA No. 9184 and its IRR-A.

3.4 For the Technical Inspection Group –
The TIG, in the performance of its duties and responsibilities, shall:
3.4.a Only have official contact with the suppliers or contractors whenever necessary during the delivery and acceptance of the delivered goods or the evaluation of the performance of the general support services rendered to the office.
3.4.b Conduct inspections of deliveries of goods and evaluation of general support services rendered to the Office by the suppliers or contractors:
- In the presence of the end-user, property custodian, and PMS Officer; and
- By rotation on a per delivery and per evaluation bases.

3.4.c Strictly comply with the Office specification/s in the conduct of inspection of goods and the evaluation of the general support services rendered to the Office by the suppliers or contractors.

3.5 For the Property Management Section / General Services Division –
The PMS/GSD, in the performance of their duties and responsibilities, shall:
3.5.a Only have official contact with the concerned suppliers, contractors and/or consultants whenever necessary prior to the preparation of the Purchase Orders (PO), the Job Orders (JO) or Contracts/Agreements, during the delivery of goods or general support services, and during the preparation of documents for payments. The PMS/GSD shall, in case of sealed canvass, contact the suppliers or contractors whenever necessary if there is a need to get information on certain goods or general support services and in the conduct of market probe.
3.5.b Prepare report/s and keep the records on procurement transactions pursuant to COA rules for submission to the Overall Deputy Ombudsman.

3.6 For the Finance and Management Services, the Planning and Budget Division, the Accounting Division and the Cashiering Unit –
The FMS, the Planning and Budget Division, the Accounting Division and the Cashiering Unit, in the performance of their duties and responsibilities as such, shall:
3.6.a Expeditiously process payments of claims arising from procurement provided that the Notice of Cash Allocation has been released and all supporting documents are submitted by the concerned suppliers and the PMS/GSD.
3.6.b Accurately record all procurement transactions in the respective general and subsidiary ledgers.
3.6.c Periodically coordinate with PMS/GSD to reconcile any discrepancy in the inventory of goods.
3.6.d Properly coordinate with the concerned office/bureau to obtain the documents or information needed for the processing of claims for payments arising from procurement.

3.7 For the Signatories to the Contracts/Agreements –
The Officials of the Office who are authorized signatories to the contracts or agreements shall act within the prescribed period as provided for under Republic Act No. 9184 and its IRR-A.

3.8 For the End-Users –
The end-user shall have the following duties and responsibilities:
3.8.a Maintain and update records of goods received, consumed and/or disposed.
3.8.b Submit to the Overall Deputy Ombudsman or the BAC a report involving any discrepancy, irregularity, or defect in the procurement of goods involving their respective unit/bureau/office using, among others, the End-User Feedback form.

Section 4. Accountability

All officials and employees involved in procurement shall strictly comply with the office requirements on authorized signatories and approving authorities. To strengthen accountability, a regular review of contracts as well as audits of procurement decisions shall be made by an independent Review Committee to be created for the purpose.

Section 5. Transparency

For transparency, officials and employees having custody of documents pertaining to procurement, which are not classified as confidential, shall make available for inspection the requested document upon written request by the interested party indicating the legal purpose, subject to prior approval of the Bids and Awards Committee. For this purpose, contract registers shall be maintained by the BAC which shall include among other things, data on the notice to bidders, product/service description, start and finish of contract, names and addresses of the participating bidders/parties involved, contract value, date of last audit conducted by the independent Review Committee and audit result, the names of all personnel involved in the procurement process.

IV. PENALTIES / SANCTIONS

Any violation of these Rules shall be a ground for disciplinary action, without prejudice to the filing of appropriate criminal charges against the erring official and/or employee.

V. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE

If any provision of this Code is held unconstitutional, other provisions not affected thereby shall remain valid and binding.

VI. EFFECTIVITY

This Office Order shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette and upon the filing with the University of the Philippines Law Center of three (3) certified copies thereof, including its publication in a newspaper of general circulation for three (3) consecutive weeks.

MARGARITO P. GERVACIO, JR.
The Overall Deputy Ombudsman

(PDI – March 9, 16 & 23, 2006)

ENCOURAGE THE SPIRIT OF OPTIMISM

Technopreneur Boni Comandante of "waterless fish transport" fame

The very best entrep educators and students vied for the PCE-ENEDA Cup and Consuelo Madrigal Collantes awards presented above by Ms. Susana Madrigal

Go Negosyo visionary Joey Concepcion rallies entreps and educators to inspire others to start up a business

Global entrepreneurship forum participants Ben Colayco (Level Up), Guilly Luchangco (ICCP), Paco Sandejas (Narra VC) and Howard Bolton (Unilever)

Students match wits in "Cashflow" game at Expo

A moving invocation sung by Gary V. lifted the audience

ABS-CBN's Korina Sanchez

Social Entrepreneurs; Dylan Wilk (Gawad Kalinga), Rina Lopez-Bautista (Knowledge Channel) and Gerry Geronimo (Ating Alamin)

Media hot seat: Inquirer's Dennis Valdes and Philippine Star's Grace Glory Go

Educators' forum with Andy Ferreria (AIM), Danny Cabulay (FEU), Genevieve Tan (Southville) and Arnel Uy (DLSU)

At the pre-summit tent: Inquirer president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez

Entreps all in a row pump the air with "Go Negosyo!"

Franchises in the food business were a big hit

Martin Nievera belts out the Go Negosyo song

Day 1 crowd rocks to the "Go Negosyo!" battlecry

PLDT SVP Butch Jimenez and French Baker's Johnlu Koa

Sens. Kiko Pangilinan, Mar Roxas, and Manny Villar with BPI CEO Gigi Montinola and Go Negosyo's Anna Marie Periquet

PCE Trustees Socorro Ramos of National Book Store and Atty. Felipe Gozon of GMA

President Arroyo flanked by award-winning young entreps

Entrepreneurs School of Asia founder Vivienne Tan mentors the young

SM founder Henry Sy received the PCE Big Brother Award for encouraging the growth of many small entrepreneurs

ANC news director David Celdran had his turn in one of the forums

ABS-CBN's Ces Drilon ran the educator's forum

The DOST booth highlighted technopreneurship

Early session moderators Rico Hizon of BBC and Go Negosyo lead advocate Anna Marie Periquet

PCE trustee Rolando Hortaleza of Splash Corp. tutoring future entreps

LET THE ENTREPRENEURSHIP REVOLUTION LIVE ON!

We apologize for the hundreds of people who were not accommodated during the Go Negosyo Entrepreneurship Summit. The massive turnout was much more than we expected. With this remarkable success, let us continue to be our countrymen's source of courage and inspiration as they pursue their business ideas. Let us all focus our energies on entrepreneurship! To the more than 50,000 people who visited the Go Negosyo Entrepreneurship Expo, thank you and we hope we have inspired you and provided you with the information you will need to start your business.

See you in our upcoming events:
•Micro NeGOsyo Fair at the Philippine Army Gym, Fort Bonifacio from 31 March to 2 April 2006
•Agri NeGOsyo in October 2006*
•OFW NeGOsyo in December 2006*

*Venue and date to be announced

Call us at 637-9347, 637-9229 or 0921-820-0484
e-mail: gonegosyo@yahoo.com, gonegosyo@gmail.com, info@pce.com.ph
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MAG NEGOSYO NA!

Philippine Center for Entrepreneurship

PLDT

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

sms feedback: inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart)
or email us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

STREET food in a mall /C2

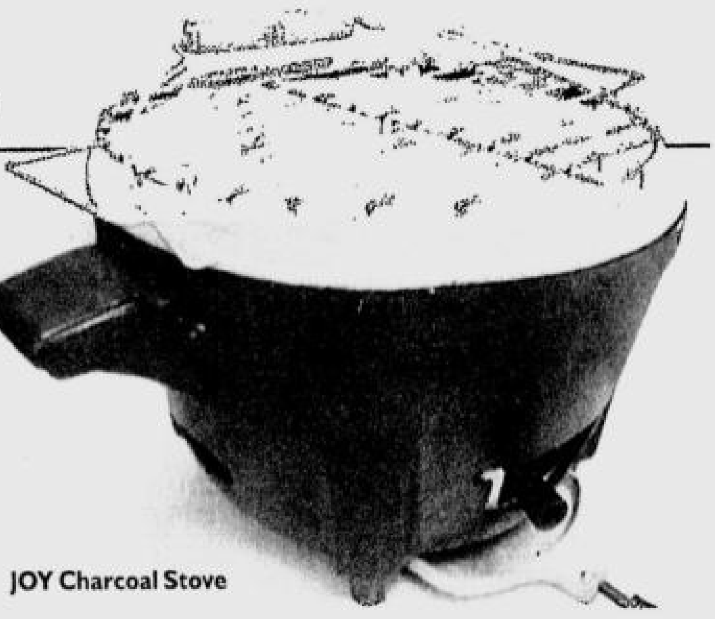
LIFESTYLE
Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

The joy of cooking with charcoal

KITCHEN RESCUE

Reggie Aspiras

Of three different coal stoves, Obligar's invention is the most economical: 'bulalo,' cooked for six hours, costs only P30



JOY Charcoal Stove

I TAKE GREAT PRIDE IN BEING Filipino. As a race, we perhaps belong to a league all of our own. Indeed, we are a highly adaptable, resilient, ingenious and brilliant breed!

Take Pinoy inventor Rizal Obligar, an engineer whose invention in 1978 should have made headline news but didn't because he was way ahead of his time.

Decades after, with the surge in power and LPG costs, people are taking notice.

I made mention of Joy Charcoal Stove many moons ago when I first saw it at the Mandarin during the Chinese New Year fete. And to this day, people have not stopped asking me about what that charcoal stove was, what the best brand is, and if it is really well worth it.

Due to the clamor of the people, I am now doing a full feature on Joy, the best stove in its class in the country.

They have a brand-new model that is much improved. It now comes in bronze, with a pull-out ash tray for easy cleaning. Unlike other coal-fueled stoves, this one has a regulator to adjust heat from low, medium to high. It, too, has a barbecue pit option and a handle, making it so convenient to take with you anywhere, even to the beach this Holy Week!

We have three different coal stoves at home and compared to the other two, this one is the most economical: P5 worth of coal lasts an hour. So *bulalo* costs all of P30 to make, at six hours of cooking time and just one charcoal change! *Nilagang baka* at P15, with no charcoal change! Beat that?!

It is also smokeless, making it worthy of a place in your kitchen! Besides, it is the only Pinoy stove that ever won international recognition!

So, is it all worth it? You bet!

Call Raul and Joy Mendiola at 4542040, 0919-3775294, 0917-4674798 or 0920-8173236

I am a culinary arts student wondering if you have a source for cheaper chefs uniforms and clogs. I have asked around and they are quite costly.

More power to you and thanks in advance.

BERT P.

You might want to try Crocs professional series clogs from Colorado!

I got myself a red pair and they are so comfortable! Though they feel kind of weird at first because they are too light, like you have jelly on your feet. It weighs six ounces. It is vented, so air passes through, keeping feet cool; it is slip-, odor- and bacteria-resistant. It is also easy to clean—just wipe or wash and bleach!

I am told that they are now used by those who stay on their feet for hours—doctors, nurses, chefs. If you ask me, they are wonderful for gardening, yachting and just about anything. They have a beach and a flip-flop series as well!

Chefs Garb Exchange Inc. is the authorized distributor of Crocs Footwear. They also make chefs jackets and toques at reasonable prices. Call Lex Adasa at 4282550.

Traditional recipes

Heirloom recipes are by themselves little treasures. Through them, we keep the

THE JOY/ C2

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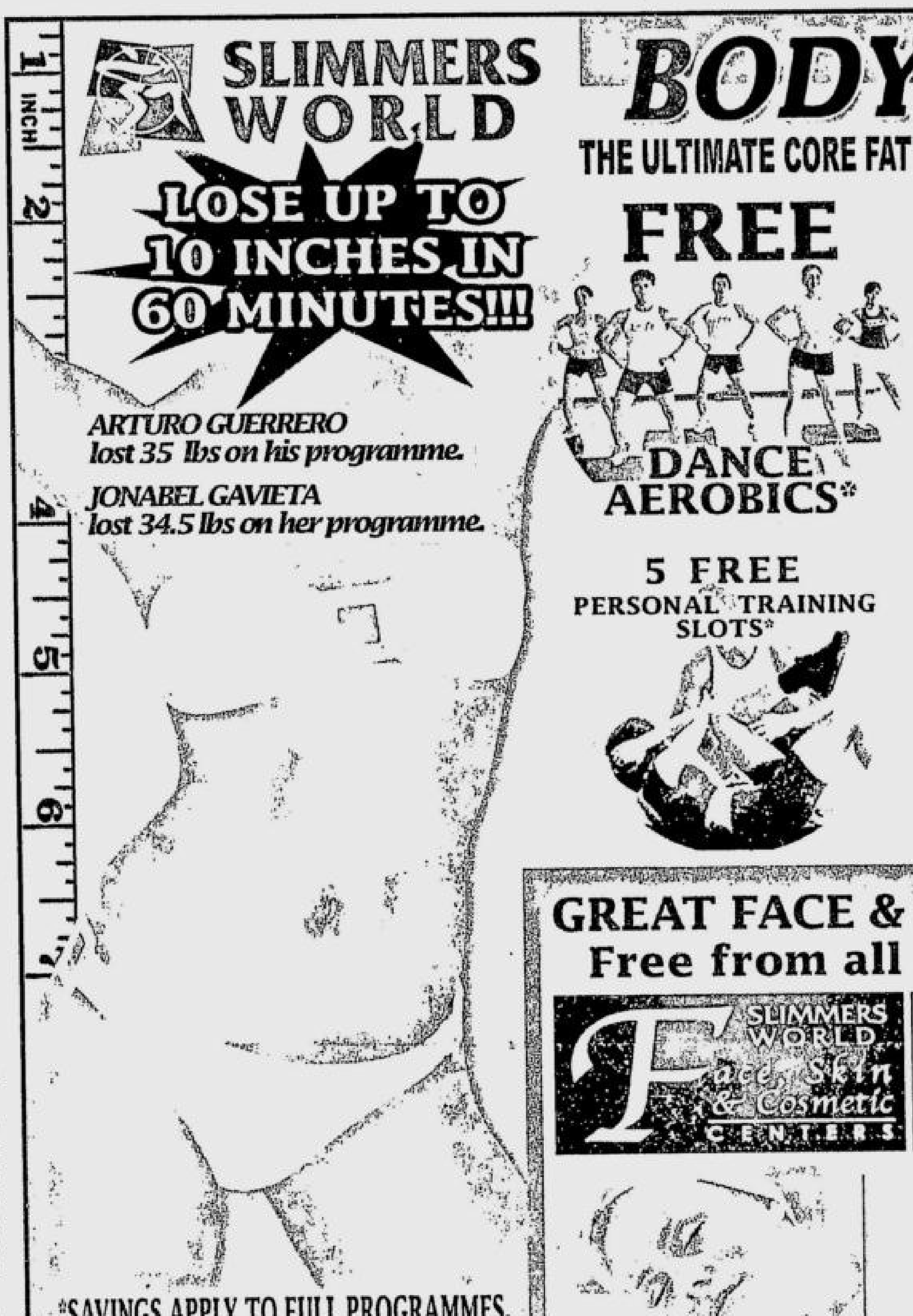

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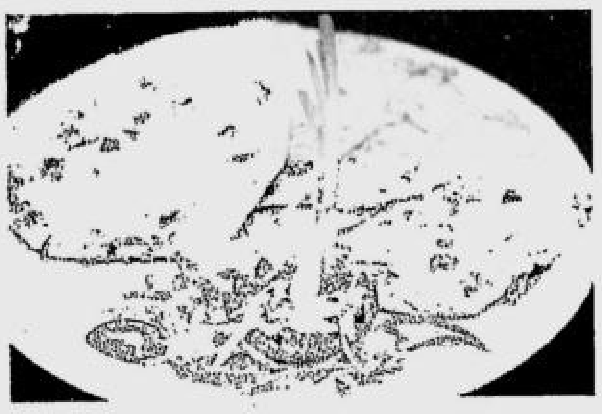
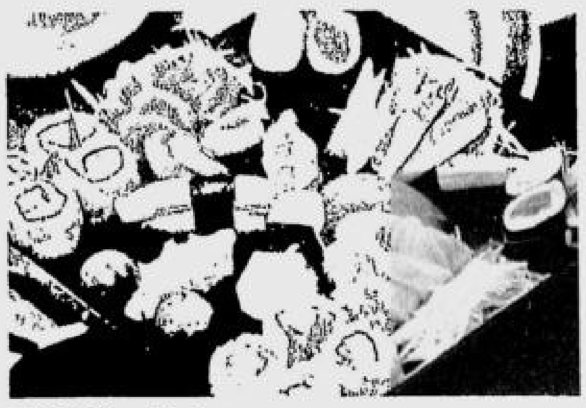
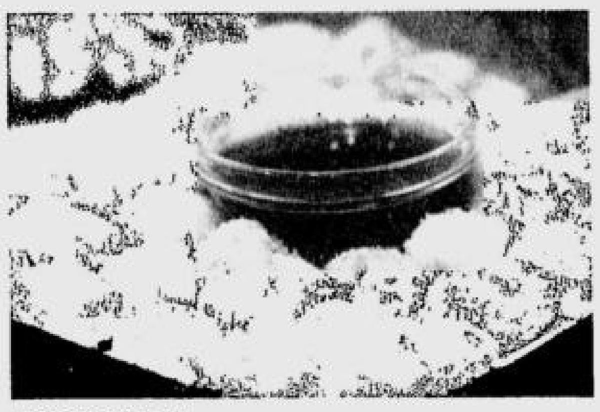

HEAVEN and Eggs Omelette


SUSHIYA sushi platter


TAKOYAKI Balls

HAP Chan's Minced Pork with lettuce

Street food far from the madding traffic

ASSORTED pastries from Icing's Cake and Coffee Shop

Text by Linda B. Bolido
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

MARKET! MARKET! IS NOW SERVING a slice of Asia with a sprinkling of points beyond.

Whether you are a gourmet, a gourmand or simply someone wanting to experience other countries by savoring their distinctive cuisine, you can now get bites of Japan, Vietnam, Thailand, Korea, China, and a few other exotic places in just one destination—the new Street Market.

Though designed like a group of sidewalk eating places, the covered Street Market offers more comfort—you get to see the outdoors but are far away enough from the road to be spared the dust and the fumes. You don't get burned when the sun is out and don't get drenched when it rains. The air under the market roof is kept a little cooler than the actual temperature outside. Many of the eating places also have a few tables set up in enclosed, air-conditioned spaces.

Street Market complements the collection of eateries and stalls on the other side of the mall's entrance—the distinctly Filipino Fiesta Market. Jie Pambid, dean of the Philippine School for Interior Design, hung colorful oriental-looking lanterns and lamps (made of resin rather than the traditional paper) and set up a Zen garden with water fountains to give the Asian corner an authentic look.

> It's like Singapore's Newton Square except it's nicely low-key, and offers not just filling meals but also flavorful snacks

WOK Bo Asian Noodles

MARKET! Market! and Ayala Malls executives: Francis Roxas, Norie Ubalde, Miriam Katigbak, Rowena Tomeldan, Charmaine Bauzon, Cora Dizon and Cathy Bengzon

SOO Ra Sang specializes in Korean dishes.

You don't have to leave Street Market in search of a filling meal or a simple but flavorful snack. Some establishments are also not found elsewhere or only have one or two other outlets outside of the market.

As of now, your choices of eating places include Hap Chan, Soo Ra Sang, Vietnam Food House, Icing's Cake and Coffee Shop, Wa No Fu, Ersao, Koay Teow, Asian Noodles, Yakitori, Ho Dduk, Hong Kong Street Food, Koji, Kindori, Takoyaki, Drink It, Sushiya and Heaven and Eggs.

You can buy snack items, *chichirya* and others from DEC, an oriental convenience store; Treffpunkt, a German-Swiss delicatessen and store; Korokke Japanese Snacks; Thai Deli; Shanghai Fried Siopao; Polland Hopia; Lord Stow's Bakery; and Wang Mart.

And if you decide to check out Street Market any evening soon you get an additional treat—some of the country's top musicians are scheduled to perform weekends from 7 p.m. onwards at Market! Market!

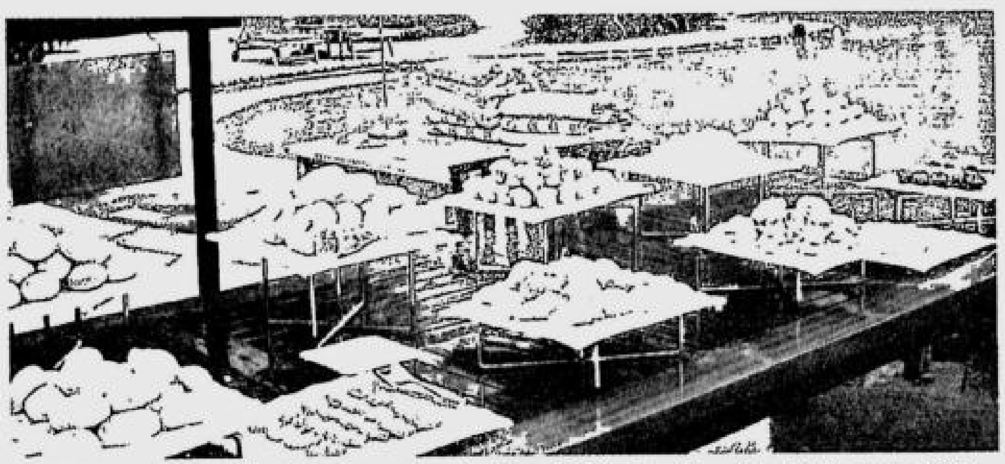
Catch Mojofly on March 10; The Club, March 11; Sugarfree, March 17; Mayonnaise, March 18; Kamikazee, March 24; Itchyworms, March 25; Rivermaya, March 31; True Faith, April 1; Stonefree, April 7; and Kjwan, April 8.

Market! Market! at Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, is open 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Monday-Thursday; and 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Friday-Sunday.

SOO Ra Sang shabu-shabu

Sunday family brunch buffet

HOTEL PHILIPPINE PLAZA presents All About Family Sunday Brunch at the Café Plaza Too and Poolside, complete with live entertainment and surprises like face painting, unicycling, clowns, balloon twister, and magic show, plus free use of the swimming pool during the day. The buffet spread includes kids' favorites such as mini pizzas, crispy fried chicken, chicken nuggets, hotdogs, burgers, sausages and marshmallow. Food stations will offer pasta, barbecue, cotton candy, dirty ice cream, chocolate fountain and popcorn. Adults can enjoy the free-flowing sparkling wine. Call Café Plaza Too at 5515555 local 1531, and the Poolside at local 1555.


ASIDE from a wide selection of pastries, the Hotel Philippine Plaza's buffet includes kids' favorites like mini pizzas, crispy fried chicken, hotdogs, burgers, and marshmallow.

DINING OUT

MANILA PAVILION'S Rotisserie offers a graduation set menu consisting of Prawns Caesar Salad, Hats Off Onion Soup, Grilled Beef Tenderloin in Green Peppercorn Sauce with croquette potatoes, Caramelized Mango Chibouste with ice cream and pralines with a cup of brewed coffee or tea. Available for lunch or dinner for P1,350++ per person until March 31. Call 5261212 local 2505.

INTERCONTINENTAL MANILA'S Café Jeepney gives special treats to graduates. When partaking of lunch and dinner buffet with four or more persons, the graduate can choose between a free buffet meal for himself or a complimentary bottle of house wine for his group. At Prince Albert Rotisserie, graduates dining with a group of four or more guests will be entitled to either a free bottle of house wine or one round of non-alcoholic drinks for his group. Graduates must present their diplomas. Call 8159711 for reservations. The special offer is from March 17-April 9. Café Jeepney also offers Indian dishes until March 15.

SUPER BOWL OF CHINA is serving all graduates their choice of any of the restaurant's specialty noodle dishes for free until March 31. For a minimum purchase of P1,000 at any Super Bowl of China or Big Buddha restaurant, the graduate gets a free regular order of a noodle dish of his choice.

Opening on March 11 is Super Bowl SM Valenzuela.

CROWNE PLAZA GALLERIA presents "Szechuan Sizzles" until March 15 at the hotel's Xin Tian Di Restaurant. The restaurant's guest master chef from China, Li Chen Heng, showcases a taste of Szechuan such as Tea-flavored Smoked Duck with Chinese Bun, Spicy Dan Dan Noodles, Sautéed Lobster with Red Pepper and Deep-fried Fish in Five Spice Powder. Call 6337222 local 7240.

SAKAE SUSHI offers Power Lunch set meals, Monday to Saturday, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Set meals include Tori Karaage, Unagi Kabayaki, Salmon Miso Nabe. Each entree is served with miso soup, gohan, salad, maguro sashimi, green tea and ice cream. Sakae Sushi is at The Fort, Crescent West Park, Global City. Call 8435452.

DIAMOND HOTEL invites you to celebrate your child's graduation at one of its restaurants. Palm Court Café offers sumptuous international buffets; Restaurant Le Bellevue, hearty Euro-continental specialties; and Yurakuen, authentic Japanese cuisine. Cocktail of the month for these restaurants and Palm Court Bar and Sky Lounge Music Bar is Tropical Freeze, unique blend of citrus, arctic vodka, and curacao blue. It comes with "Miko the Graduate" for the price of P550++. Miko is the hotel's puppy mascot for the Year of the Dog. Call 5283000.

The joy of cooking . . .

From page C1

essence of Pinoy food and ancient family traditions alive. "Potluck" is one of those little books that give big insights into a family that takes great pride in their heritage and their cooking traditions. A great read as well as a fantastic source of traditional recipes from bygone days (red eggs, *sinanglay*, *tapa* to *kalamay hati*!), For advance copies, call Anvil at 6373621 and 6375141.

Do you have a recipe for *inihaw na pusit* and *kinilaw*? Am planning to cook it for my husband's birthday.

NENITA

Wow! *Inihaw* and *kinilaw* with beer? Your husband will love you forever! Happy birthday to your hubby!

Here are some of the recipes from the book "Potluck." Exactly why you must get a copy!

Seafood Kinilaw

350 g fresh white fish fillet (*lapu-lapu*)
150 g blanched shrimps, squid or baby octopus
½ red onion, thinly sliced
½ cucumber, peeled and cut into thin round slices
3 small tomatoes, yellow or red, halved
1 ½ tbsp ginger, chopped fine
2 tbsp scallions
Sauce:
1 tbsp calamansi
¼ c spiced native vinegar
1/8 c coconut milk

Salt and pepper, to taste (You get the exact quantity of salt and pepper when you buy the book! Hahaha! It's a joke!)

Cut seafood to bite-size pieces and mix with vegetables. Add sauce ingredients and mix well.

Let sit at least 15 minutes before serving. Do not pre-marinate the fish, it will destroy the flavor.

Garnish with chopped pork *chicharon*

Mario Binaday's Inihaw na Pusit

1 kg squid, *lumot*, cleaned
Marinade:
½ c soy sauce
¼ c brown sugar
½ c native vinegar
3 cloves minced garlic
¼ tsp crushed peppercorns
2-3 pcs *siling labuyo*, sliced
¼ c cooking oil (for basting)

Combine in a saucepan, bring to a boil. Cool.

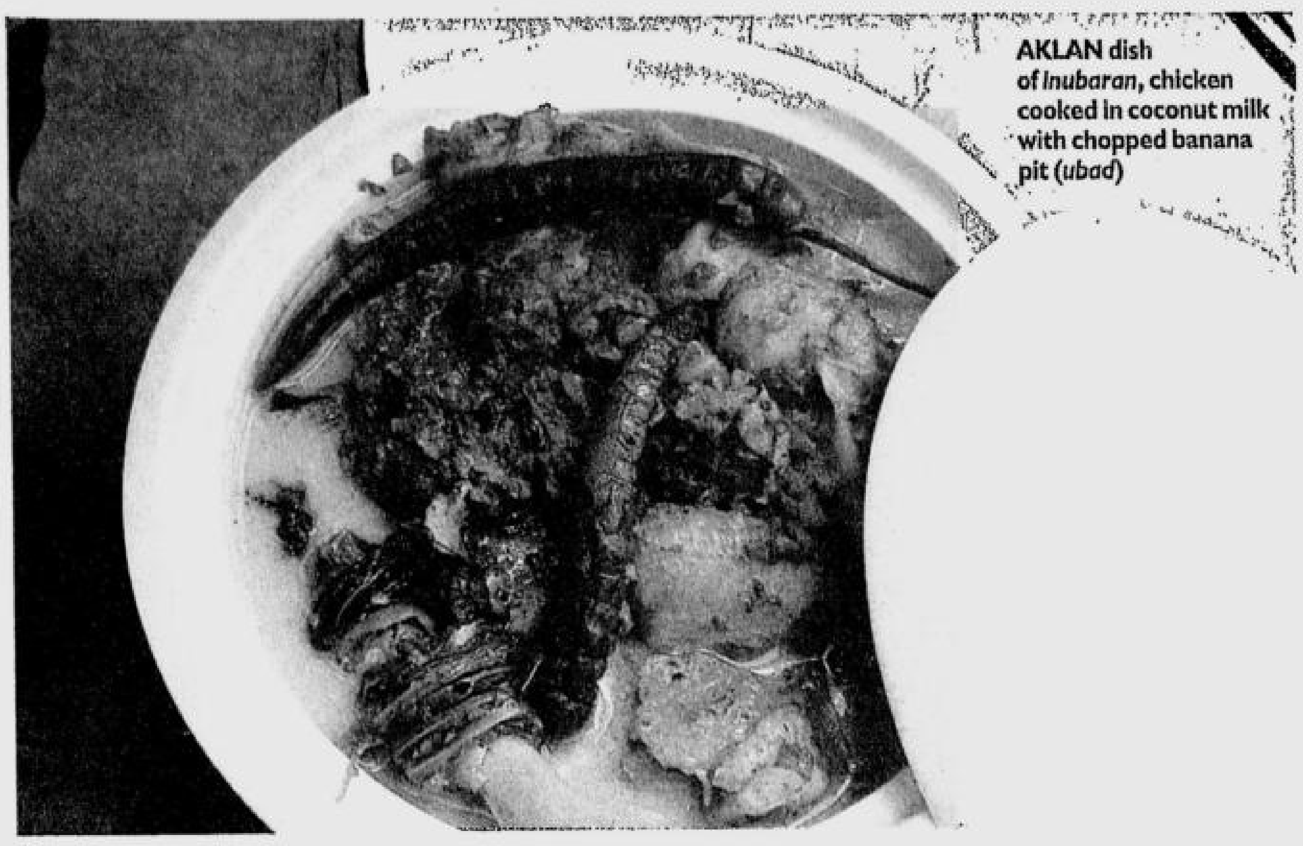
Pour half the mixture to marinate squid. Reserve the rest for basting and as dipping sauce.

To the basting sauce, add ¼ c cooking oil. Grill for seven minutes, basting with sauce.

Serve with reserve sauce for dipping.

My Gourmet Cucinera 3 class, starts next week. Call 6335162 or 9289296 for schedules.

E-mail the author at raspiras@inquirer.com.ph



AKLAN dish of *inubaran*, chicken cooked in coconut milk with chopped banana pit (*ubad*)

We need to inform foreign tourists in Boracay about our flavor preferences and how we cook our excellent ingredients

A taste of Aklan cooking in Boracay

COUNTRY COOKING

Micky Fenix

IT MIGHT SEEM FLIGHTY but I literally took flight (via Seair) to Boracay last weekend. What better way to escape the turmoil in Manila?

I first visited Boracay ages ago when there was no mall or delineation of areas into what are now called stations. The food was *ihaw-ihaw* and German dishes of sausages and potato salad.

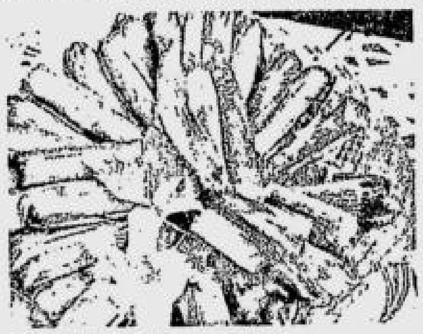
The biggest thing then was an English breakfast, which was really just bread, jam and butter. I had hoped I would find more Filipino cooking, especially what I had on the main island, in the province of Aklan.

Of all the food we consumed in the province, it is *inubaran* that I remember and miss most. Florencio Miraflores, then governor and now congressman, kept his promise to a group of writers and photographers that we would get to taste the dish so identified with Akan.

Inubaran is chicken cooked in coconut milk with chopped *ubad*, the pith of the banana plant. That first taste was pure bliss, a creamy soup with *ubad* bits that seem to take on the texture of rice.

Inubaran was what I looked for on that first Boracay visit and every visit thereafter. But it was only last weekend that I tasted it again where we stayed, the Boracay Tropics Resort.

Owners Bert and Cely Sarabia prepared a spread for lunch and what good fortune that they thought that there should be some cooking of the place.



SUMAN Pasko, a special *suman* of glutinous rice cooked slowly in liquid *panocha* done only during the Christmas season in barrio Old Buswang, Kalibo

Memories

Tasting *inubaran* again brought back memories. Bert Sarabia is from Kalibo, and he reminisced about the cooking in his hometown. *Binakol*, he said, was chicken steamed in its own juice inside a bamboo that was cooked over charcoal. *Tanglad*, a bit of salt and probably chili were all that's needed for the flavoring and aroma. Then he explained that the *suman* served to us by his wife Cely at breakfast and was, thankfully, still there at lunch, was only cooked in his barrio, Old Buswang in Kalibo.

The *suman* was made of *malagkit* mixed with liquefied *panocha* and cooked for hours. The Sarabias must have asked the cooks to make an exception for their guests that weekend as the *suman* was usually cooked only during Christmas.

My own Aklan memories had to be dug up from old files.

At one of the seaside beer gardens, where the waves constantly sent sprays of sea water on the cars parked along the shore, there was the best grilled food, fish and pork barbecued to perfection by grill masters.

What caught my eye the moment we entered was the *kinilaw* of shrimps. It was the sweetest shrimp I've ever tasted despite its being cooked in what Doreen G. Fernandez described as "liquid fire," a rather poetic description for down-to-earth vinegar.

The sweetness was a sure sign of freshness, helped too, no doubt, by the coconut milk. But as a counterpoint, some salted black beans were added.

Instant 'sinigang'

We partook of the *sinigang* of shrimps, sour and hot and perfect for that evening. The researcher in me made me ask what souring fruit was used, expecting *batuan*, a souring round green fruit mainly used in the Visayas to be the answer. I almost fell off my chair from laughing when the waiter answered, "Knorr." No one, especially those in the food business, can refuse convenience and an affordable alternative.

Like many beer gardens, music was not piped in but was loud and featured singer-wannabes. All the women in our group ordered beer while the men had softdrink. Well, guess to whom they served the beer?

At the eating area, we had a view of the mangrove, making us hopeful that Aklanons knew how the fence-like sea trees filtered the water, served as fish and crab sanctuary, preserved the border between sea and land. Indeed, Cely Sarabia informed me that there was now an Eco Park Bakhawan, this time in the barrio New Buswang in Kalibo.

Perhaps next time, the Sarabias will serve the other dishes I had in Aklan. There should be shellfish such as *litob* with the orange meat and the elongated *bayuyan*. Why not the seaweed called *laba laba* that looks like green flowers? And please do have the shrimp *kinilaw* with coconut milk and salted black beans.

Boracay boasts of good cooking but you usually hear of Italian pizza and gelato, Greek Portuguese or Spanish food. Try looking for Filipino food and you get the usual *ihaw-ihaw*, which isn't something to sniff at and is an important part of our cuisine.

But there are so many other dishes cooked away from the grill. We need to inform the many foreign tourists at this white-sand paradise about our flavor preferences and how we cook our excellent ingredients. And if we can tell them about Aklan and our country through the food, that's better than any brochure or tourist guide.

Seair flies 24 trips everyday to Boracay via Caticlan. Call 8490100.

For reservations at Boracay's Tropics Resort Hotel, call 6871465 (Manila) or (6336) 2883034 (Boracay Island).

Winners can end up losers

By Linda B. Bolido

THE CONSUMER

I THOUGHT I WAS LUCKY. I GOT a text message saying, "Globe telecom G cash: congrats for wining Nokia 7610 in our network. To claim your prize plz call toll free tel. (prefix is 0906) DTI NCR permit #2838 series of 2005."

Then a friend forwarded this message: "D'auditor's of (a foundation) inform u dat ur celfon no. won Php950,000.00 2nd prize winner draw last: 03/03/06. Call me now I'm Atty. ______." The prefix of the sender's number is 0910.

If second prize is P950,000, makes you wonder what first prize is. Also makes you wonder what kind of work the foundation does to give away prizes like that. They probably do charity work for cell phone users.

Scam artists deserve an A for effort. Despite disclaimers from mobile phone companies (Globe, of course, said the message I got was a hoax, which I already knew because I didn't use G cash), they spend money sending out phony messages—from a simple "you win 500 load..." to this impressive prize of close to a million, always making it sound authentic by giving a DTI permit number.

But "fees" are required to claim prizes—from a few hundreds to a few thousands—and people never get their winnings. The scam must pay, otherwise why would these hoaxes continue?

We can only repeat what has been said before and no doubt will be said again and again. If it seems too good to be true, it usually is.

Incomplete information

Tina Diaz is grateful that Alfonso Siy, a stockholder of Ace Water Spa in Del Monte Avenue, Quezon City, promised to act on her complaint.

She explained that Ace was a hydro spa offering relaxation in their various pools. She had the diligence to phone the company first to ask about "rates and requirements so as to be prepared for everything and not be inconvenienced."

She said the staff failed to specify regulations on swimming attire. "All I was told was to bring towels and bathing suits." But when they got there, her husband's swimming shorts were considered inappropriate.

They brought the problem of miscommunication to the attention of a company officer. But she said the guy, instead of apologizing, insinuated that "consumers who make a fuss are only out to extract preferential treatment."

Diaz said, if they could not relax the rules considering they gave incomplete information, the executive could at least have given the assurance that steps would be taken to avoid such a problem in the future instead of hinting at some hidden agenda behind her complaint.

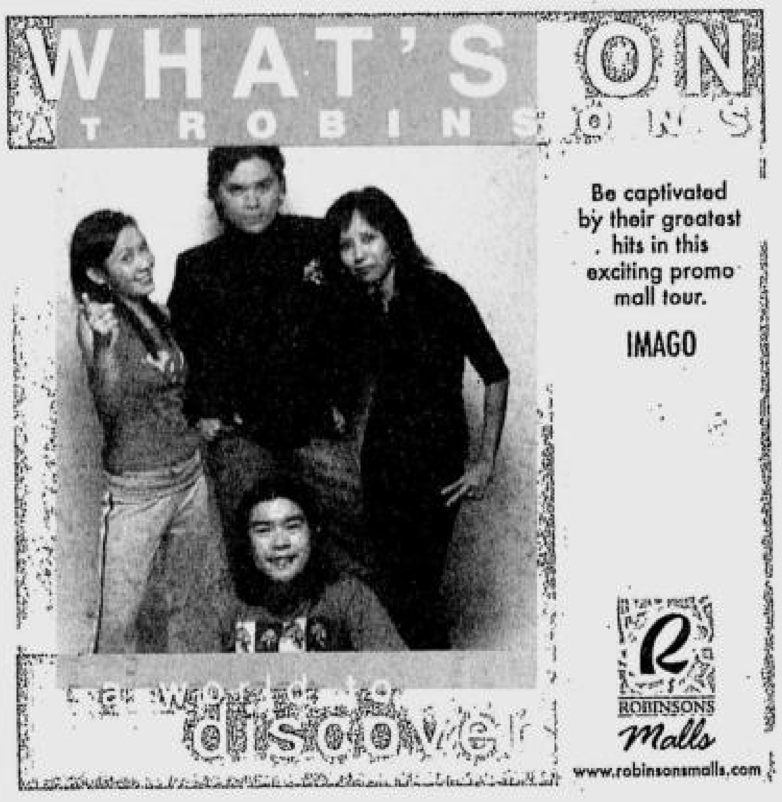
She said the employees, including the guards, were more courteous and apologetic. In her letter to Siy, Diaz said such behavior should have been displayed by an executive who, more than the employees, represented the company to customers.

In his response, Siy apologized for his late reply saying he was away on a business trip and for the distress and inconvenience the incident might have caused. He added, "We duly place great importance on the conduct of our employees. Thank you for bringing this matter to our attention. Rest assured your complaint will give us the opportunity to remedy any problem that may exist. We hope that you will give us another chance to serve you."

Not PLDT's

Horace Lavides, media senior manager of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company (PLDT), said the Internet dial-up service a reader was asking about (column of March 2) was not PLDT's.

(Our regular columnist, Marietta V. Giron, is indisposed. Please send letters to Consumer Corner, Lifestyle Section, Philippine Daily Inquirer; Chino Roces Ave. cor. Mascardo and Yague Sts., Makati City; PO Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office, 1263 Makati; or e-mail lbolido@inquirer.com.ph —Editor)



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MARCH - APRIL SCHEDULE
RECREATIONAL AND ONE-DAY BUSINESS CLASS

BAKING CLASSES

March 13, Monday - CHOCOLATE BAKED DELIGHTS. The ultimate chocolate goodies class! Chef Junjun teaches baked products with chocolate you will surely enjoy. The recipes are Choco-Coffee Cake, Cherry Chocolate Muffins, Chocolate Oatmeal Cookies, Revel Bars, Choco-Cinnamon Crinkles and Chocolate Tea Bread for P1,500.00 including all ingredients from 10:00 - 4:00 p.m. NEW CLASS.

March 16, Thursday - BROWNIES & BARS. Another series of baked goodies that you will surely love. Chef Junjun will make for you a different set of brownies and bars that are not the popular kind, new flavors and different. Strawberry Blondies, Meringue Bars, Dulce de Leche Squares, Triple Chocolate Decadence, Cherry Almond Bars and 60's favorite, Dream Bars P1,500.00 including all ingredients from 10:00 - 4:00 p.m. NEW CLASS.

March 22, Wednesday - BAKESHOP CAKES. Delicious bakeshop cakes will be demonstrated by Pastry and Cake Decorator Chef, Ana Baluyut. The recipes are Mango Cake, Strawberry Cake, Mocca Roll, Blueberry Cake with Streusel and Chocolate for P1,300.00 including all ingredients from 10:00 - 4:00 p.m

March 28, Tuesday - CHOCOLATE TEMPTATIONS. This class is a must for anyone with a passion to create a dazzling chocolate desserts. Chef Adoree Chong-Uy will demonstrate a variety of specialties like Double Chocolate Rum Cake, Fudgy Chocolate Cake, Chocolate Blitz Torte, Flourless Chocolate Cake, Chocolate Peanut Butter Dome and Graham Chocolate Roulade for P1,500.00 including all ingredients from 10:00 - 4:00 p.m

March 29, Wednesday - TRADITIONAL CAKES AND DESSERTS. Old time desserts that nobody teaches anymore, truly different and great tasting. Chef Junjun presents Engano Bobo, Canonigo, Caramel Bread Pudding, Strawberry Meringue Crisp, Seven-up Cake and Peach Charlotte. Recipes include all ingredients for P1,500.00 from 10:00 - 4:00 p.m. NEW CLASS.

March 30, Thursday - ASSORTED BARS. Pastry and Cake-Decorator Chef Ana Baluyut will be demonstrating different kinds of bars such as Carrot Cake Bars with Cream Cheese, Pineapple Blueberry Bars, Rocky Road Fudge Bars, Strawberry Meringue Bars, Food For The Gods and Banana Squares. Recipes include all ingredients from 10:00 - 3:00 p.m. for P1,300.00.

April 02, Sunday - YUMMY BAKED GOODIES. Let Chef Hannah Herrera, our latest addition to the CACS faculty formerly DOME Cafe's Kitchen Operations Manager demonstrates her favorite baked goodies such as Angel Food Cake, 2 Variations of Pound Cake, White Chocolate Pecan Bars, Strawberry Cream Puff and Mango Cream Puff that can be made for gift-giving this holiday season. For P1,300.00 including all ingredients from 10:00 - 4:00 p.m. NEW CLASS.

April 19, 21, 26 & 28 (Wednesdays and Fridays) - COOL KIDS CAN BAKE. This hands-on class is filled with yummy recipes your kids will surely enjoy making and love to eat. Chef Adoree Uy will supervise this class. Some of the recipes that will be made are: Chocolate Snickerdoodles, Peanut Butter Spiral Cookies, Snowball Cookies, Apple Cinnamon Muffins, Strawberry Muffins, Oreo Cheesecake, Banana Chocolate Pizza and Ice Cream Cone Cakes. This will be a 4-day class from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. The fee for the series is P4,000.00 and this includes recipe handouts, all ingredients and an apron (or P1,100.00 per day without the apron). Reserve for a slot now! NEW CLASS.

COOKING CLASSES

March 08, Wednesday - THAI FAVORITES 1. Bangkok Chef Chariya Thaikupt will teach her favorite Thai dishes like Tom Yam, Paad Thai, Chicken Pandan, Chicken Green Curry and Tako in Pandan leaves. P1,300.00 including all ingredients from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

March 09, Thursday - THAI FAVORITES 2. The recipes from Thai Chef Chariya Thaikupt, Tom Kha Talay, Bagoong Rice, Roasted Duck Curry, Crispy Catfish with Green Mango Salad, Thai Halo-halo at P1,300.00 from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. Recipes include all ingredients

March 10, Friday - HOLY WEEK DISHES. During the season of Lent, seafood dishes are what we love to cook and eat. Chef Junjun presents the dishes he cooks for his family and friends, come and join him as he demonstrates Baked lapu-lapu Mediterranean, Bacalao Sizia, Salmon Casserole, Squid in Balsamic, Prawns and Dill, Tuyo and Tomato Pasta for P1,500.00 including all ingredients from 10:00 - 4:00 p.m. NEW CLASS.

March 12, Sunday - JAPANESE DISHES. Another set of Japanese dishes will be demonstrated by Chef Hiromi Ogino, the recipes are Tonkatsu and Ebi Fry, Katsudon, Katsu Sandwich, Kani Salad, Spaghetti Salad, Curry Rice & Katsu Curry Rice and Teriyaki Hamburger for P1,500.00 including all ingredients from 10:00 - 2:00 p.m. NEW CLASS.

March 14, Tuesday - PARTY CANAPES. Little party dishes or pica-pica will be demonstrated by Betina Legarda of Gourmet Palate that can be used in any occasion. The recipes are Mini Toast with Basil and Tomato, Deep-fried Calamari Rings with Two Dips, Nutted Fish Bites with Special Salsa, Delicious Fritata of Mushroom, Spanish Salad for Entertaining, Apricots with Walnuts and Tzatziki on the Side for P1,500.00 including all ingredients from 10:00 - 3:00 pm. NEW CLASS.

March 15, Wednesday - CASSEROLES. New dishes from Chef Toto Erfe will be demonstrated in this delicious class. The recipes are Asparagus, Broccoli and Cauliflower Cheese Casserole, Celery, Chicken and Fussilli Casserole, Cumin and Squid Casserole, Mix Seafood Casserole, Lamb Casserole a'la Provencale and Shiitake & Beef Casserole for P1,500.00 including all ingredients from 11:00 - 3:00 pm. NEW CLASS.

March 17, Friday - PULUTAN CLASSICS. Traditional and classic Pulutan fare will be demonstrated by Chef Toto Erfe. The recipes are Sisig, Peppered Tuna Ceviche, Curly Calamari, Chicken Feet with Tausi, Crispy Binagoongang and for P1,300.00 from 11:00 - 3:00 pm including all ingredients

March 19, Sunday - SIMPLE & HEALTHY MEALS. This class are for people want to eat light but still healthy food so here are recipes from Chef Hannah Herrera, our Pastry Instructor and formerly DOME Kitchen Manager. The recipes are Healthy Fritata, Lite Italian Sandwich, Chicken Sandwich Gourmet Style, 3 Kinds of Easy Pasta Sauces (Simple Carbonara, Meat Sauce and Healthy Basil Pesto) with a bonus of Assorted Spreads for P1,300.00 including all ingredients from 10:00 - 4:00 p.m. NEW CLASS.

March 20, Monday - THE SAUSAGE WORKSHOP 3. New sets of sausages from Chef Gene Gonzalez like Asturian Chorizo, Chinese White Sausage, Fresh Cheese Sausage (Krainer type), Longganisang Vigan, Lemon Chicken Sausage, Fresh Sulzwurst Adobo Sausage and English Bangers. The workshop includes all ingredients for P1,500.00 from 11:00 - 3:00 p.m

March 27, Monday - SPECIAL EVERYDAY MEALS 3. Buffalo Wings, Breaded Calamari with Cocktail Sauce, Gruyere and Bacon Souffle, Herbed Tuna Casserole, Roasted Gourmet Chicken and Mocha Mud Pie are the recipes from Chef Gino. All the recipes include all ingredients for P1,300.00 from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

March 31, Friday - FAMILY & PARTY TABLE DELIGHTS. Chef Lawrence Zafra, one of Café Ysabel chef and at the same time a stock brocker will be demonstrating some of his favorite recipes like 6-Sauce Beef Fondue, Bagna Cauda, Stewed Fish from Marseille with Aioli Sauce, Braised Ham in Wine, Chanterelle or Wild Mushroom Mashed Potato, Chicken in Red Wine and Braised Oxtail Tavern Style in this one-day cooking demo. From 11 - 4 pm for P1,500.00 including all ingredients NEW CLASS.

April 03, Monday - KIDS IN THE KITCHEN. Summer is here and kids would enjoy doing summer workshop that would give them confident in doing things by themselves but of course still with the supervision of adults, let Ana Baluyut teach them different recipes from cooking to baking in this one day that is full of fun-filled and easy to learn recipes. The recipes are 2 Kinds of Fried Rice, Pork Siomai, Chicken-Macaroni Soup, Chocolate Crispy Cookies and Painted Cookies for P1,300.00 from 10 - 3 p.m

April 04, Tuesday - PASTA IN A FLASH. Let Chef Gino teach you 8 quick, easy and delightful pasta recipes in one short period. Recipes include Pasta Fritata, Linguine in Vongole Sauce, Chorizo, Mushroom and Roasted Red Bell Pepper Sauce, Chicken and Shrimp Lemon Crème Sauce, Pasta Bianca alla Carbonara, Pasta Salad with Honey Dill Dressing and Gino's Puttanesca for P1,300.00 including all ingredients from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m

April 05, Wednesday - POTLUCK PARTY DISHES. Going to a party, don't have anything to bring. Here's the class that will make you a great cook. You will see Chef Junjun make delicious and appetizing dishes you can share in the next get together that you go to. The recipes are Potluck Chicken Salad, Luscious Ham Mix, Hearty Baked Beans, Chinese Tineta, Pork Salpicao, Lamb Stew and Baked Pasta Elise. From 10:00 - 4:00 p.m. for P1,500.00 including all ingredients. NEW CLASS.

April 06, Thursday - SPECIAL EVERYDAY MEALS 4. Chef Gino is meant to put a smile on every person seated on the table for all the recipes he will be sharing with us. Recipes include Cream of Spinach Soup, Corn, Asparagus and Green Salad, Fish fillet al Caparis; Meatloaf with Pan Gravy and Pannacotta with Honey for P1,300.00 including all ingredients from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m

April 07, Friday - KIDS IN THE KITCHEN, DAY 2. Another day of kids in the kitchen wherein they will learn Shrimp Tempura, Steamed Eggs, Chocolate Crinkles and Chocolate Chip Cookies for P1,300.00 from 10:00 - 2:00 p.m.

April 08, Saturday - ALL ABOUT THAI FISH DISHES. Chef Gene will teach you his favorite Thai Fish recipes for this Holy Week Season. Let him demonstrate Khao Paad Thalay (Seafood Fried Rice), Pla Duk Nam Prik Kapi (Catfish with Shrimp Paste Dip), Pla Neung Manau (Steamed Fish with Lime), Tom Kha Pla (Murrel Soup with Coco Crème), Som Tam Pla Duk Yang (Banana Leaf Grilled Catfish with Papaya Salad) and Pla Pao (Lapu-lapu with Tamarind and Onion Toasted Sauce) for P1,300.00 from 11:00 - 3:00 p.m. NEW CLASS.

WE WOULD APPRECIATE IF YOU COULD CALL AT LEAST TWO DAYS BEFORE THE CLASS FOR RESERVATION.

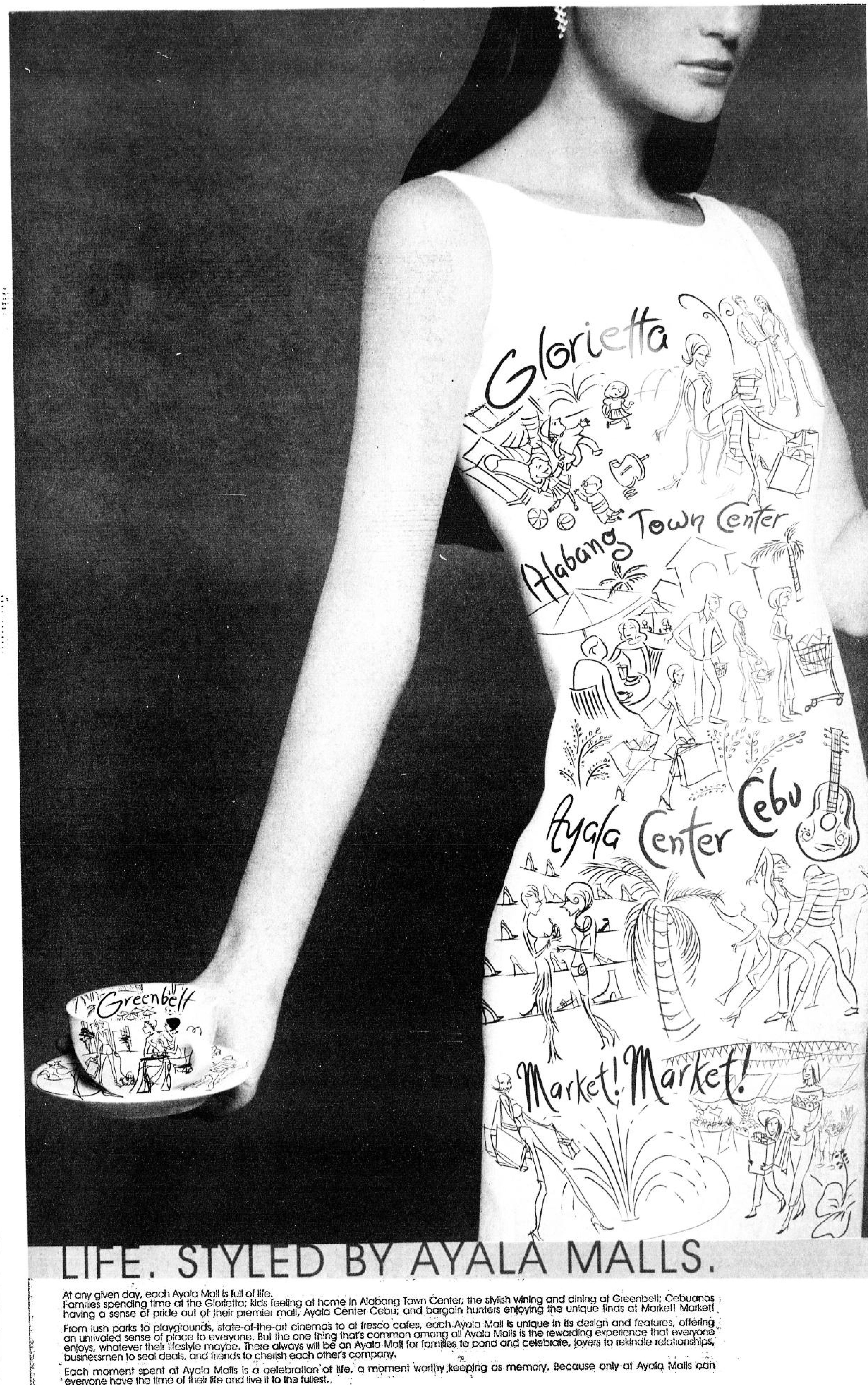
DIPLOMA IN PROFESSIONAL CULINARY ARTS PROGRAM

The Professional Culinary Arts Program prepares students for professional entry into the food service industry. This intensive program integrates classical and modern culinary techniques from the finest institutions abroad with kitchen management skills. Students learn how to prepare soups, sauces, vegetables, entrees, breads, pastries and desserts. They will learn how to identify, fabricate and portion meat, poultry, fish and shellfish. The course will also provide the introductory skills on Asian and Halal cooking, wine appreciation, gastronomy, table service and back of the house operations.

TESDA ACCREDITED PROGRAM. This program is a hands-on training series for students to gain proficiency in various skills needed to perform at professional standards in a commercial kitchen. The students will also prepare buffets and be involved in actual functions.

Learn the CACS method and be the Global Chef! Our program is the only school with its own restaurant outlet and its own internship program of 400 hours and Externship or an outside practicum program of 300 hours. It is also the only program with the mostly widely used software hospitality system worldwide that gives its graduates the global edge. Enrollment includes 3 sets of uniforms, chef's kit, manual and all the ingredients to be used. NO HIDDEN COSTS!

Classes will start on March 20, TTHS Schedule for 5 - 11 pm. Enrollment is ongoing.
For inquiries and reservations, call 726-9326 or 725-5089 and look for Marilyn or Glady.



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Ayala Malls Glorietta Greenbelt Alabang Town Center Ayala Center Cebu Market! Market!